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NORTH PUNJAB FISHING CLUB  
ANGLERS' HANDBOOK.

COMPILED BY  
G. H. LACY,  
BENGAL STAFF CORPS,

*Honorary Secretary, North Punjab Fishing Club.*

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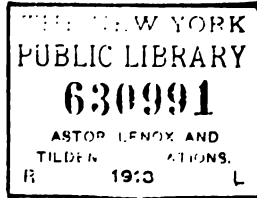
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# CONTENTS.

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## PART I.

### CHAPTER I.

	Page
FISHING TACKLE, OUTFIT, ETC., NECESSARY FOR THE FISHERMAN IN INDIA, TOGETHER WITH NOTES ON THE SAME, REFERRING TO FISHING FOR THE SMALLER MAHSEER ... ..	I

### CHAPTER II.

NOTES ON THE TACKLE AND OUTFIT REQUIRED SPECIALLY FOR HEAVY MAHSEER FISHING, WHERE THE FISH MAY BE EXPECTED OF A FAIRLY LARGE SIZE ... ..	21
---	----

### CHAPTER III.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION, NOTES, RECIPES, ETC. REGARDING MAHSEER FISHING GENERALLY ... ..	39
--	----

---

## PART II.

### CHAPTER IV.

NOTES AND INFORMATION REGARDING FISHING LOCALITIES IN NORTH-ERN INDIA ... ..	59
--	----

W. L. Field, 25 Nov. 1912 82.25

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# INDEX

TO

## PLATES AND DIAGRAMS.

	PAGE,
The North Punjab Fishing Club Anglers' Map ...	Frontispiece
Pennell Swivels ... ..	6
Lead. —Method of Attaching— ... ..	26
Spoon.—Pattern shape for— ... ..	27
Whippings. Fastening off— ... ..	52
Splices-rods ... ..	53
Knots for Gut Traces, No. 1 ... ..	54
Knots for Gut Traces, No. 2 ... ..	54
Map of Tangrôt ... ..	To face page 81
Map of Kumaon ... ..	To face page 100
Scott's No 2 Spoon ... ..	... Plate I
Hogbacked Spoon ... ..	... Plate I
Spoon for the Poonch ... ..	... Plate I
Tangrôt Spoon ... ..	... Plate I
Flying Mount Single Hooks ... ..	... Plate II
Flying Mount Treble Hooks ... ..	... Plate II
Spinning Tackle for "Chilwa" ... ..	.. Plate II
The "Chapman's" Spinner ... ..	... Plate III
Large Spoon, triangles mounted with wire ... ..	... Plate IV
Heavy "dead-bait" tackle ... ..	... Plate V
Frog tackle ... ..	... Plate VI
Captain Maycock's mount for Spoons ... ..	... Plate VII





## PREFACE.

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**A**T the suggestion of Major-General H. C. Wilkin-  
son, C. B., late President of the Club, and of  
several Members, the undersigned has undertaken to

### ERRATA.

*Page 80*—7th line—Read “the fish now making.” inverted commas should be  
before “big.”

16th line—Insert “a” between “try” and “miracle.”

25th line—The full stop after “below” should be a comma.

*Page 104*—Last line—“Talmer” should be “Palmer.”

*Page 114*—28th line—“Talak” should be “Palak.”

*Page 125*—Heading T, 4th line—“depreciated” should be “deprecated.”

where, and where  
information.

The compiler trusts that Part I may be found use-  
ful by beginners, and that Part II may prove useful to  
older and experienced Anglers as well, who, perhaps,  
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of which they were, perhaps, previously unaware, or  
regarding which they did not know the full particulars—  
as to the Routes, Baits, Accommodation, etc.,—and  
also that it may be useful to those making arrange-

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## CHAPTER 1

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## PREFACE.

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T the suggestion of Major-General H. C. Wilkinson, C. B., late President of the Club, and of several Members, the undersigned has undertaken to compile this work.

The first three Chapters treat generally on the requirements of an Angler in this country, and particularly in the Punjab ; and have been so arranged as to include all the subjects on which the undersigned, in his capacity of Secretary of the Club, has been asked information or particulars about by Members commencing a fishing career in India. Part II has been compiled from notes furnished by Members regarding most of the fishing localities in the Punjab, and also about others in the North-West and elsewhere, and which gives a lot of useful particulars and information.

The compiler trusts that Part I may be found useful by beginners, and that Part II may prove useful to older and experienced Anglers as well, who, perhaps, on being transferred from one station to another, may find angling localities mentioned in this Hand-book of which they were, perhaps, previously unaware, or regarding which they did not know the full particulars—as to the Routes, Baits, Accommodation, etc.,—and also that it may be useful to those making arrange-

ments to visit any particular rivers or fishing localities mentioned herein.

The thanks of the undersigned are due to those who have so kindly contributed to this work. No literary merit is claimed for the same, it being merely a collection of rough Notes, Letters, and Diaries, arranged in a readable form, and such information as has been derived from the compiler's experience, gained while fishing in this country. It may be mentioned that the "Anglers' Map" has been taken from the several sheets of the Ordnance Survey. It is, however, although generally speaking, fairly accurate enough for general purposes, intended chiefly to give an idea of the river system of the Northern Punjab, Kashmir and Jummoo, and to shew the relative positions of the different fishing localities resorted to. A Skeleton Map cannot be much good, as regards making out Routes, etc., but such as it is, it is hoped that it may prove useful. The Ordnance Survey Sheets shewing the country embraced in this Map are No. 14 S. E., No. 15 N. E., No. 28 S. W., and No. 29 N. W.

G. H. LACY,  
*Honorary Secretary,*  
*North Punjab Fishing Club.*

RAWULPINDI ;  
*September 8th, 1887.*

THE  
NORTH PUNJAB FISHING CLUB  
ANGLERS' HANDBOOK.

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PART I.

CHAPTER I.

Fishing tackle, outfit, etc., necessary for the fisherman in India, together with general notes on the same, by G. H. Lacy, Honorary Secretary, North Punjab Fishing Club.

**F**ISHING in India, when generally spoken about, usually refers to the Mahseer, and therefore, unless otherwise stated, all the following notes are intended to apply to Mahseer fishing, which fish takes the lead in India in the same manner as—only in even a greater proportion—than the Salmon does in Great Britain.

The Mahseer, as most of my readers will be aware, is a fish of the carp species. It is generally distributed throughout India, from the Cabul River to Assam, in Central India and Madras. It is not my present intention to go into the natural history of this fish, but only to give a few notes about it that may be useful. It runs to an enormous size, 150 lbs. or more; but the majority of fish that the angler has to do with, do not exceed 40 lbs.; and these even are very exceptional, the majority of fishermen being content with fish up to 10 lbs., and even far below this weight. This fish has many peculiarities. Its mouth is so made that it is most favourable, in that it gives a splendid hook hold; and large fish are often caught by a single hook holding in the merest shred of skin, which in any other kind of fish would assuredly have broken away.

The mouth itself has no teeth, but there are most formidable ones in the throat lower down. The Mahseer has, however, most extraordinary powers of compression, and I have several times seen stout triangles crunched up, and once I saw a spoon also similarly served, none of which could have been possibly taken far enough down into the mouth to have come under the terrible force of the teeth, and the damage inflicted must have been done by the mouth alone, at least, so far as could be ascertained at the time. The Mahseer has, however, a habit of trying to rid himself of spoons and triangles hanging outside his mouth, as they usually are, by rubbing them against stones and rocks, and perhaps some of the damage recorded above may have been caused in this way.

The teeth are most formidable, and I have even heard of a native having the top of his finger crunched up by them, he having incautiously shoved his fingers right into the gills when landing a fish.

It is a much vexed question as to when and how Mahseer spawn? It is, however, I think now generally believed that they spawn at uncertain times, but that the majority of them do so between May and September. This point, however, does not appear to be in any way settled, and doubtless they spawn at different seasons in different localities, and under different conditions. Moreover, it also appears that they spawn by degrees, and not all at once, and this fact makes it more difficult to ascertain the exact period. It is also thought by some that the larger Mahseer spawn chiefly in December and January, but this is improbable.

If anyone cares to note in his angling diary the number of male and female fish he catches, respectively, he will find the latter to exceed the former by four to one.

The male fish can easily be distinguished by the swelling or fleshy protuberance on the nose being extended far-

ther and being much larger and more developed than in the female. In all my own diaries, extending over the last few years, I find that the largest male fish that I have caught did not exceed 20 lbs. ; all over that size (about 50 or more) being female fish. This is very extraordinary, and I think I may say, although my memory is not quite clear on this point, that of all the large fish I have seen taken at Tangrot and elsewhere, only two or three were males. As regards their feeding propensities, it will be seen that they will take anything from live bait to paste, and are to all intents and purposes omnivorous. With all this, they are, however, very often the most provoking fish, going on and off their feed, with a caprice and uncertainty that cannot be accounted for. The young angler is often disappointed and put out, and resolves never to fish again ; but by perseverance and waiting, a day will come which makes up for all the hard work and blank days that he has previously undergone. Any one who has fished day after day for three weeks or a month will doubtless look back upon those "two or three good days" when the fish seemed to be almost trying to commit suicide, whereas on the very next day, although wind, water, and atmospheric conditions *seemed* the same, he could not touch a fish. Such is Mahseer fishing, and with such we must be content.

When the fish are on the feed, it is, indeed, glorious sport, and a "real good day," as before depicted, is one to be treasured in one's memory and will be thought about for months after.

I do not wish to discourage the beginner, but to take an average all round : say, that out of ten days steady fishing, taking seasons and rivers about, the angler will, as a rule, have five days blank, four days on which he will have, perhaps, moderately good sport, but the tenth will be the real good day, which should make up for all the rest. The above



is an average, and such has been the writer's own experience.

There are, perhaps, few fish more truly handsome than a Mahseer when freshly taken from the water, and there are many points worth noticing. The peculiar line down each side of his body, the beautiful colouring of the scales and fins, the breadth of his tail, and the peculiar wattles on each side of the mouth, are all points requiring attention ; but what concerns us most at present are those peculiarities and habits which have to be understood and overcome with reference to making a successful bag, and being able to present the fish with a suitable bait, and upon tackle suited to the size of fish expected, and it is upon these points that I now purpose treating.

All over India, Mahseer fishing may be generally divided under, or classed into two separate heads : (1) Heavy Mahseer fishing, for fish running from 15 to 60 lbs., and for which heavy rods, reels, and lines are required ; and (2) Fishing for smaller fish running from 1 to 15 lbs., and for which light tackle and rods suffice.

As the latter kind is that which the beginner in this country is most likely to try his hand at first, a general description of the tackle and outfit required for this will be first given.

The following is a list of the necessary tackle required for "light" Mahseer fishing :—

(1) *The Rod*.—A 12 to 14 feet rod, fairly pliable, and such that the angler can wield it all day without fatigue, usually made in four joints with two or three tops of different thickness and lengths.

(2) *Reel*.—A 3-inch revolving plate, bronzed check reel is recommended, which should be able to hold 100 yards of fine silk line.

(3) *Line*.—From 60 to 80 yards of fine silk plaited line is recommended. It would, however, be preferable to have 100 yards.

Tussa silk, and other kinds of lines are very good in their way, but are apt to kink, and do not last half the time a really good silk line does, and the very best quality of these is recommended as being the most economical in the end, and may, perhaps, save the angler much disappointment, in the event of his hooking unexpectedly a heavy fish.

The great secret of keeping a line good, and in a strong condition, is to take great care that it is always dried after fishing, occasionally taken off the reel and aired, particularly the end portion, which being seldom run off the reel is therefore more necessary to expose to the air. It is difficult, however, after fishing, particularly if one's pony or trap is waiting at the river bank and one's fishing is ended close by, to do this, but if the last few yards of the line that may be wet, are pulled off the reel, and wound round, even a broad piece of wood or card, to a certain extent they will be exposed to the air and become dry.

*Traces.*—For heavy Mahseer fishing there is much controversy about which are the best kind of traces—wire or gut—and if of wire, which kind is the best ; but for fishing for smaller fish, it is, I think, universally admitted that single Salmon gut or at the most, double gut, is the best thing to use. Many also are the arguments regarding the length of trace necessary, and likewise as to the number of swivels required. Traces of single Salmon gut from two to three yards in length and with three swivels are recommended.

Whether the gut should be white or dyed is a matter of opinion, but the writer has always found white gut to answer every purpose.

It is far more economical to buy one's gut and make the traces required, *i. e.*, single ones oneself ; and, moreover, the trace can then be made of whatever length required, or according to fancy.

As a general rule, however, it may be said that three yards

is a suitable length for a single gut trace, with three single swivels. Double swivels (Pennell) are too heavy for single traces. The three swivels should be distributed one at each end of the trace, and one in the centre.

*Swivels.*—All swivels should be well oiled before use, and, moreover, if when purchased, the swivels are submitted to the following process, it will be found to be an immense improvement—These notes about swivels apply to all, both those used in heavy fishing and light: On purchase, many swivels will be found to be more or less rough and to revolve with difficulty. This can be remedied by the following process: If the end or ring of the swivel is hooked on to a lathe or to the hook of a twisting machine, and revolved rapidly either way, oil and emery powder being added to the "body" of the swivel, it will be found that all imperfections of the surface will be worn away, and the swivel will revolve far better than before being subjected to this process. It will be found that two or three swivels prepared after this fashion will work better than six in the rough, and, moreover, a great number of swivels, distributed up and down the trace, make a great stir, and show in the water, weaken the trace and cost money.

"Pennell" swivels, *i.e.*, two ordinary swivels with the rings



or eyes let into each other, as per marginal diagram, are too

heavy, for light traces, and are not required for any kind of gut trace however thick, but they are useful in wire traces, as they prevent kinking to a certain extent. Which are the best—blued steel, aluminium, nickel-plated, or brass swivels?—is often a matter of argument among sportsmen, and certain advantages and disadvantages are held out against each. Blued steel swivels are very generally used, but are apt to rust and corrode and eat into the gut: nickel-plated are perhaps the best. Mr. T. P. Luscombe's remarks about

swivels in Chapter II are most useful, and apply to small as well as large swivels. For single gut traces, small swivels are all that are requisite, and one often sees traces of this description made up with unnecessarily large ones, which make a great splash when cast into the water. There are various kinds of "hook" or spring swivels, which are very convenient, as they allow the line or spoon to be attached without any knotting or trouble, but they are not, as a rule, very generally used, and are, moreover, not very reliable or to be depended upon.

*Leads.*—With light tackle, are generally quite unnecessary when fishing with a spoon, or in any other way. The subject of leads will be discussed farther on, when treating on the tackle required for "heavy" Mahseer fishing.

*Spoons or other baits, such as Phantoms, &c.*—This subject may be discussed at considerable length. As a general rule, however, it may be laid down, that small spoons, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, are the most killing bait, and the most effective for Mahseer up to 12 or 15 lbs.

Beyond this size, larger and heavier spoons are required. Many are the shapes and kinds of spoons offered to the public, but a great variety is, I am sure, unnecessary; and if the fish are on the feed, they will rush at almost any kind of spoon that may be presented to them.

There is no doubt but that a small spoon should spin with great rapidity, although this is, in our opinion, not so necessary with large spoons; and it has been found that the "hog-backed" spoon spins far and away faster and truer than the ordinary spoon of the usual shape. Spoons may be "hogged" to any degree, but the "half" or partially "hogged" spoon is, perhaps, the best of all.

Whether the spoon is silver and gold (or brass), or silver or gold, is a matter of opinion, but, as a general rule, silver and gold is that generally used, and it is the most effective

The all gold spoons are also very good, but the all silver spoons are, as a rule, only killing when the water is colored or dirty. Another rule that is not often attended to, which often ensures success, is the following :—

Spoons should not be *too* bright in very clear water. One often sees a highly polished and gilt spoon used by an angler in water as clear as glass without success, and I am sure that an excessively bright spoon, although good enough in colored water, frightens away more fish than it catches in very clear water. Spoons should be moderated in brightness according to the state of the water. For my own part, I find brass all that is required, and I never use a gilt spoon at all, or at least, very rarely, if I have one with me by chance.

There are many opinions as to the best shape for spoons, but there is little doubt but that an elongated pear-shaped spoon spins more evenly and truer, whether it is hogged or not. The best pattern spoon for the smaller Mahseer of the Punjab rivers is, I think, what is usually called "Scotts" No. 2, and it is sold by Messrs. Scott & Co., of Rawul Pindi and Murree, a diagram of which is shown on Plate I containing the diagrams of the several kinds of spoons referred to and recommended.

For my own part, I have always found bazar-made spoons answer every purpose, and they are infinitely cheaper than those purchased from tackle-makers! Moreover, one fishes with much more confidence with a spoon worth, perhaps, 2 or 3 annas only, than when one has a spoon worth perhaps a couple of rupees, particularly where the matter of expense is one of consideration.

I have always been able to get the spoon made in brass or copper for one to six annas a piece, from the smallest to the largest sizes, and I generally silver them myself, if required. Walton's "Argentine," price one rupee a bottle, is recommended for this purpose, one bottle containing

enough of the preparation to silver 500 spoons, if not more. It can be purchased at most Chemists in India. I have also found the ordinary "kalai" used for tinning "degchies" an excellent substitute for silver, if the latter cannot be obtained. On Plate I are shewn several kinds of the exact sizes of spoons recommended, both for "light" and "heavy" Mahseer fishing.

I now come to the most important matter, *viz.*, the way spoons should be mounted in order to be used with the most deadly effect, and on this subject there is much controversy and many different opinions. For my own part, I have no hesitation in saying that I think all spoons under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length should be mounted with what is called a "flying mount," diagrams of which are given on Plate II, and that all spoons of a greater length than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches or thereabout should be mounted with the ordinary "head" and "tail" triangles, *viz.*, one ringed triangle at each end. It is of the first description of spoon that I will now treat about, *viz.*, those under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and for which I have stated that a flying mount is most strongly recommended.

For small spoons, I think that there is no better way of fastening them to the trace, *i.e.*, to the end swivel of the trace, than by a small split ring, although the use of a split ring for larger spoons, and when fish over 20 or 25 lbs. are expected, I am strongly opposed to, for reasons which will be explained and pointed out hereafter.

Now, with reference to the mount for a small spoon, there are many in favor of single hooks being used, and many in favor of triangles, which latter are, I fancy, in the majority. Perhaps a spoon spins better with a mount composed of single hooks, but there is not the same chance of the fish hooking himself on a single hook as there is on a treble hook, particularly when it is remembered that in many cases a fish is hooked more or less foul outside the mouth

on top of the head, etc., and that this is often caused by a fish rushing at the spoon, and perhaps misses it, or overshoots it, and on turning round, doubtless having found out or seen that it is not a fish, gets hooked in one of the above-mentioned places.

However, whether the mount is composed of single or treble hooks, there are two principles which, in order to avoid breakage and loss of fish, must always be attended to :—

(1.) That when the mount is composed of two or more hooks, either single or treble, the upper one should be a “ringed” hook, either like a “peculiar-eyed” Limerick hook, or a ringed triangle, as if attached to the split ring by a gut loop ; this is first quickly frayed by changing the spoon, etc., and secondly, by this fraying, is likely to break at a critical moment ; and, moreover, the fraying of the gut is much increased after two or three fish have been caught, particularly if any have been played for any length of time.

(2.) The second principle is, that two hooks composing the mount should be whipped on the gut, so as to preserve a space of at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch or more, according to the size of the spoon, between the two hooks, which precaution if neglected, and the hooks are whipped on too close to each other, makes the mount too rigid, which often causes a fish to get unhooked, and somewhat in fact, has a similar action to that of playing a fish with a very stiff rod !

Having observed the above principles in making up a mount, there are certain other details to be attended to, which, although perhaps not so important as the above-named principles, at the same time should be generally observed :—

(1.) The two hooks (whether single or treble) composing the mount should be graduated in size, the biggest being the bottom hook.

(2.) That the bottom hook (whether single or treble) should be so adjusted on the mount, with reference to the

size of the spoon, that the bend of hook is clear below the bottom of the spoon when suspended vertically.

(3.) That the mount should hang on the "belly" side of the spoon and not the "back."

All these mounts for small spoons should be on gut, whether double or treble, is a matter of taste. For my part I generally use treble (but not twisted), as it makes the mount stiffer when the gut has been saturated, and also it is, of course, stronger. I have seen some mounted on wire, but these are usually too clumsy and rigid. Whether the bottom hook of the mount is ringed or not, is a matter of option, but of course an unringed hook is much neater in appearance and less clumsy.

For the upper hook in single mounts, a "peculiar-eyed" Limerick is recommended or a "Rhoe Carp" hook, as manufactured by Messrs. Alcock and Co., of Redditch, is very suitable, and for the bottom hook, an ordinary "Limerick" hook or whatever pattern is preferred. "Sneck" or "Sprout" hooks are also very good for this purpose. The usual fault in treble mounts is, that the steel of which the triangles are made is too fine and thin, and breakage is the continual result of using such fine hooks. Triangles of solid and powerful description should be used, and although they may appear clumsy, make up for this by fewer fish being lost. On Plate II, at the end of the book, are given diagrams of the various kinds of mounts for small spoons, and from which it is hoped that the foregoing explanations and descriptions may be made clearer. If the upper hook of the mount is not ringed, or ring is too small, a small piece of brass wire can easily be made into the shape of a small ring and whipped on to the shank of the hook, when being mounted, and which, although, perhaps, a little clumsy, is better than trusting to a gut loop.

A most useful article for light Mahseer fishing is a fair



sized landing net, and by its means many fish are taken which would otherwise be lost ; this is particularly the case when fishing from a boat anchored in deep water, or even more so when fishing off high rocks, where the native or other person in attendance cannot get down to seize the fish, and which is the case in many places in the streams round Rawal Pindi.

The handle should be made in two pieces, with a socket and ferrule, or better still, a screw.

An ordinary bazaar-made net is all that is required.

The patent folding nets, furnished with springs, &c., are not of much use, with the rough work they have in this country, and moreover are seldom made large enough for a fish of 8 or 10 lbs.

The above are what are required, and are necessary for any one commencing fishing in this country, and I will give the same in a tabulated form below, with the least number of each article that would be required at first and the average price of each article :—

(1.)	A 12 or 14 feet rod, as before described...	Rs 20
(2.)	A reel, ditto ditto ...	„ 12
(3.)	A line, ditto ditto ...	„ 6
(4.)	Six single traces, complete, with swivels, &c., (or if made up oneself, about 8 annas each) ...	„ 9
(5.)	Six small spoons—mounted (or if made up oneself—about 4 to 8 annas each or less) ...	„ 6
(6.)	Landing net (not absolutely necessary) ...	„ 2
(7.)	Spare hooks, triangles, unmounted spoons, &c. ...	„ 10
Total ...		Rs 65

The above estimate is about the least that one would require to commence with. As will be seen, a good lot can be saved by making up things oneself, and as the angler is often cut off from shops, &c., it will be found of the very greatest use to be able to do so.

With reference to other baits for small Mahseer, in addition to that universally used, *i.e.*, the spoon, they are as under, and I will now proceed to treat on each under its separate heading :—

I.—Fishing with natural bait, *i.e.*, the “Chilwa,” or other small fish.

There are several methods of fishing with “Chilwa :”—

- (1.) Spinning the “Chilwa.”
- (2.) Using it as a “dead bait.”
- (3.) Using it as a “live bait.”

(1.) *Spinning the “Chilwa,” or other small fish.*—A Chilwa is the best, if it can be procured, which it usually can be, and which method of fishing requires even more skill than fishing with a spoon. Fish of large size up to 30lbs. or more may be caught when spinning the “Chilwa.” The rod, line, and trace are the same as previously described, but the mount for the “Chilwa” is as follows :—

Take a large size single hook, ready mounted on gut, and at a suitable length above the end of the shank of the hook whip a small triangle which is used as a “lip” hook. It is advisable to have several of these mounts ready, so as to suit “Chilwas” or other small fish of different sizes. To bait the same, the large or “tail” hook is thrust in through the membrane of the tail, and which should be tied round with a piece of white thread ; the treble hook is hooked into the mouth of the “Chilwa,” and it will be found by adjusting the size of the mounts to the several sizes of fish used that the body of the fish should remain slightly bent or curved, which gives the “Chilwa” a spinning motion when

drawn through the water. For this purpose, the distance between the bend of the "tail" hook and the treble hook inserted in the lip should be a little less than the length of the fish used, measuring from his nose to the fork of his tail. It will be found that with this mount the "Chilwa" will spin fairly well, particularly in a run or swift water. I forgot to state that the "tail" hook should be passed in through the mouth and out of the gills, before it is hooked into the tail of the bait, and if a few turns of white thread are given under the gills, and taking in the gut of the mount, the same will be made much more secure and stronger. Diagrams of the mount by itself and of the mount baited are given on Plate II at the end of this book.

Another way of mounting a "Chilwa" for spinning, and it is perhaps the best way, is as follows: A body of lead is prepared, having a needle running throughout its length, the length of the needle being about the same as the bait to be used; the length of the lead should be about half the length of the fish used, and should, in its centre, be a little thinner than a pencil, in fact a very good one can be made out of a cylindrical lead, the same as used on traces for sinking the spoon, &c. To the head of this needle is a ring, soldered on. The lead is moulded on to the needle, which forms its centre, so to speak; at the end of the lead is a small hook, with its point upwards, *i.e.*, if the needle is held with its point vertically downwards. To bait with this is as follows:—The point of the needle is entered in the fish's mouth and pushed on until its point reaches the tail, and all the lead is taken into the belly of the fish, the ring at the top of the needle alone remaining outside the mouth. By a sharp snick or jerk, the hook at the end of the lead can be fixed inside the fish, so that the needle and lead cannot be pulled out of the fish without tearing the

inside up. Just between the ring and the commencement, or top of the lead, are fixed two small fins, made of brass or other metal, of the same fashion as "Phantom" and other baits are provided with. These, of course, remain outside the mouth and cause the fish to spin with great rapidity. The ring can be attached to the trace with ease, and a "flying mount" of two or more triangles, or single hooks, as preferred, can be attached to this ring, and which is a very great advantage. The advantages of this over the previous method, are that the bait is not so liable to be torn when casting, and that it spins truer and with more rapidity, and by using a "flying mount" fish are more liable to be firmly and quickly hooked.

Diagrams of this kind of "spinner," both by itself and when baited, are given on Plate III at the end of the book, and from which it is hoped that the above explanation will be made clear.

Care should be taken that the little hook let into the lead to fix into the belly of the bait is sufficiently strong and powerful. Often in this kind of "spinner," when bought, this hook is made of soft wire, and is quite useless and does not sufficiently secure the bait. It is believed that this tackle is called the "Chapman's Spinner."

(2.) *Using the "Chitwa" as a "dead bait."*—This method, and it is very deadly in the hot weather months in many streams in the Punjab, and particularly so in those looked after by the Fishing Club—the Sohan, Leh, and Korung—is very simple. No trace with swivels is required, only a gut bottom, say, three yards in length, and a large sized single hook, which is passed in through the mouth and out of the gill and hooked into the tail. The fish should be bound about behind the gill with white thread as described for spinning.

The hook baited like this may be cast into a rapid and allowed to take its chance, or it may be used with or

without a float (no shot or lead being required) in pools or still water. The great secret of success in this kind of fishing is to fish very deep with the bait close to the bottom. I have made very good bags of small Mahseer fishing in this method ; the fish are not very particular as to the freshness of the bait, and I have seen them take a "Chilwa" so dry, and which had, I think, been in a man's pocket all night, that it almost broke to pieces in baiting it.

It is astonishing sometimes how very small Mahseer will take this bait, and I have caught one or two only a little longer than the bait itself, certainly not double its length.

(3.) *Fishing with "Chilwa" or other small fish as a "live-bait."*—This is seldom practised, and no advantage is gained by so doing, as the Mahseer will take a dead bait just as well as a live one. However, if fancied, the "Chilwa" or other fish used can be hooked lightly through the nose or back fin, and used in the same way as fishing with live-bait for pike is practised in England.

II.—Having given an outline as to how Mahseer are fished for with natural bait, I will now proceed to the several other remaining methods, which are as follow :—

(1.)—"Atta" Fishing.—This is usually slow work, but sometimes, when the water is dirty, it can be used with success. The chief difficulty many find in this kind of fishing is to get the *atta* to stick on the hook, and many mix wool, &c., with the *atta* in order to make it more tenacious and to stick on the hook. This is, however, quite unnecessary, as if the *atta* is cooked before use, or even if an ordinary *chupathe* is kneaded up, it will be found to be tenacious enough for any purpose, and, in fact, is too much so, as on a fish taking the bait it will sometimes be found that the hook will not cut its way out of the bait.

An ordinary large sized single hook is required, and no lead or float is necessary, and the bait should be cast out into

the deepest part of the pool. In some places, fish seem to take *atta* much more readily than in others, and which is hard to account for.

Another way of fishing for small Mahseer is with parched gram or *chunna*, which, in places where the fish will readily take it, is very killing. A full description of this kind of fishing is given under the head of fishing at Jubbulpur, in the Nerbudda River, in Part II of this book, where this kind of fishing is practised to perfection.

(2.) *Fishing with pieces of fig, melon, worm, &c.*, is sometimes practised, and the Mahseer in certain places will readily take these baits.

(3.) *Fishing with melon* is a very killing method in the Chiblat. An unripe melon is necessary, and the seed with the pith inside is used. It is difficult stuff to keep on the hook, and must be tied on with thread. Two single hooks are, I think, best, one hook being mounted above the other. The bottom hook may be slightly larger with advantage. The two hooks are hooked into the pith of the melon, which is tied on them with thread ; a piece of the melon, an inch or an inch and-a-half long, and as thick as one's finger, should be used. An ordinary single triangle is, however, very good for melon fishing, or a double hook, as sometimes used for flies, would do excellently.

(4.) *Worm fishing*.—Sometimes practised in the rains and in dirty water, and sometimes with success, but is slow work. A single hook is all that is required. A float may be used or not as preferred.

(5.) *Fishing with fig, mulberry, etc.*—Fishing with fig is practised successfully in Central India, and with mulberry in Kashmir. No special tackle or knowledge is requisite for these methods.

(6.) *Phantoms and artificial baits*.—With reference to artificial baits, such as Phantoms, Archimedean baits, &c., they are

sometimes used with effect, but I do not think, on the whole, that they are anything like so good as a small spoon, although in certain rivers the fish will take a small Phantom greedily. In certain parts of the Poonch River, I have found this to be the case when I could not get a fish to look at a spoon. For choice, a Phantom is recommended in preference to any other kind of artificial bait, it being, I think, more natural, less liable to damage, and less costly. A "Devon Minnow" is also an excellent bait.

(7.) *Fly fishing*.—With reference to fly fishing for Mahseer, which is, of course, the cream of any other kind of fishing, I am unable to speak much from personal experience, as I have never been able to find a place where the fish would take a fly very readily, or where any good resulted from using one, although I believe that in the rivers in the Dun and North-West they will take a fly as readily as any other kind of bait; but in the rivers of the Punjab I have never been able to do any real good with a fly, although one does occasionally take a few fish, generally quite late in the evening, just as it is getting dark. My own experience is that a dark fly with yellow or white wings is the best.

Referring again to fishing with the "Chilwa" or other natural bait, I have noticed that this is taken much more freely in the early months of the hot weather (end of March, April, and May) than at any other time of the year, and that in the autumn months it is of scarcely any use fishing with it; moreover, when the water is slightly colored—not too dirty—they take it more readily than in clear water. This applies only in a still greater measure to fishing with larger baits for heavy Mahseer which I have seen caught by this means in the most filthy water, and which will be described farther on.

The preceding remarks are intended to refer only to fishing for the smaller Mahseer from 1 to 15 lbs., although many will apply to fishing for far heavier fish, and which will

be noted and referred to in Chapter II regarding fishing for larger Mahseer.

As a general rule, I think, it may be taken that for sport and recreation, the light fishing is the best, requiring greater skill and judgment to make a really good bag, and although it is very exciting work playing a 40 or 50lb. Mahseer, this seldom occurs, and there are many men who are keen fishermen out here who have never taken anything over 8 or 10 lbs., and have been quite satisfied with the sport. The lighter the tackle and rod used, the better the sport, and to hook and land a 10lb. fish on single gut is no mean sport; and, moreover, there is always the chance of getting into a larger fish, particularly when fishing with natural bait. I have seen a fish of 40lbs. taken on single gut, and have heard of even larger. Of course much depends on the play a fish gives, with reference to the kind of water he is hooked in. If a fish is hooked in very heavy water or a big rapid, his rushes will seem to be much more furious and determined than if hooked in dead water, where there is no impetus of the water to carry him forward or accelerate his speed.

This light Mahseer fishing with a spoon is generally carried on from the bank, or by wading and casting out towards the centre of the stream, or by letting the spoon run down and play in a rapid until it is taken by a fish. A few hints on this head may, perhaps, be of use. There is no doubt but that the longer the casts, and the further the spoon is allowed to run down the rapid, the more readily will fish take it, and the man who is able to cast a long line has a great advantage over one who cannot. Also many anglers fish only in the runs and rapids, and entirely neglect casting over the deep pools. It must be remembered that many fish, as the sun gets higher and consequently hotter, leave the shallow water in and about the rapids, and betake themselves to the deep still



pools, which are often partly overshadowed by high rocks. It is in these pools that often good fish are taken, particularly when the sun is hot and the day advanced. Often by fishing in these pools a fish may be taken close to overhanging rocks, perhaps within a foot or two of the same, the rod having to be lowered almost perpendicularly to get the spoon into its proper position. Again, if there is an isolated, sunken rock in the centre of such a pool, it is almost certain to be a sure haven for fish, and casts should be made all round it; the great secret in fishing in a pool of dead water is to let the spoon sink at least a yard under water, before drawing it up for commencing a fresh cast. Whether the morning or the evening is the best time for fishing is also often a matter of argument, and it is hard to say, but I think, that, generally speaking, the morning is the best time for all Mahseer fishing, from 7 to 9 or 10 A. M., although in some rivers and in certain seasons, the evening appears to be the best.

I am not an advocate of very early rising for fishing. The fish do not, as a rule, seem to come properly on the feed until the sun is well above the horizon, and the waters have been a bit warmed up. The question as to whether the evening or morning is the best time is, perhaps, very hard to decide, as at times they appear to be both equally good. Usually however, for big fish, the morning is the best time, but in several rivers my experience has been that the smaller fish are more on the feed in the evening than the morning.

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## CHAPTER II.

"Notes on the tackle and outfit required for heavy Mahseer fishing, where fish may be expected of a fairly large size."

**I**N treating on the above, it will be generally found that the tackle required for this kind of fishing is much the same as that required for smaller fish, as described in Chapter I, except that the rods, line, etc., are of a heavier and more powerful description.

*The Rod.*—The rod should be from 16 to 18 feet in length, upright or standing rings are recommended. The end ring of the top joint should have a revolving wheel let into it, as this diminishes the friction on the line considerably, as by constantly revolving it continually presents a fresh surface for the line to rub or cut against, whereas a top ring made of wire alone is soon cut through and becomes useless, destroying the line at the same time ; by being cut through, or deeply notched by continued friction caused by the winding in, and running out, of the line.

Castle Connell rods are now much used in India, and are much superior to the ordinary ferruled rod. They are more powerful, play truer, and one can cast farther with them. Also they are not so heavy or cumbrous as the four jointed rods generally in use ; whatever the kind of rod used, it should not be too stiff, and many fish are lost by using a rod of excessive stiffness.

*The Reel.*—This should be of sufficient capacity to hold 200 yards of heavy line and should be either a 4½ or a 5 inch reel, a bronzed revolving plate check reel is recommended.

Above all things it is economical in the first instance, for heavy fishing, to purchase the very best English reel. Reels made in this country by natives, although perhaps only a quarter the price of those of English manufacture, and

which often look quite good enough, should never be used. At first, they may do well enough, but at a critical moment, the springs break, the plates become unsoldered from the spindle, or something happens by which a check is made and a good fish lost. A valuable reel should always be kept in a leather case made specially to fit it.

*The Line.*—As regards the kind of line most suitable, there is often much argument. As to the quantity required, 200 yards is necessary, or at the very least 150 yards, nothing less than this. Last year I was fishing with 210 yards, and this was all run out by a large fish, assisted by some rough water, and the trace (fortunately) smashed, being weaker than the line, or perhaps the whole line might have been lost. For my own part, I have usually found the Manchester Cotton Spinning Company lines good enough for anything, and they are about half the price of the American plaited silk lines. The directions given in Chapter I regarding the care and preservation of lighter lines apply equally to heavier ones, of course it only happens very seldom that 100 yards of line are run off at once, but the angler should be prepared for it at times.

*Traces.*—The best kind of trace for heavy Mahseer fishing is a much vexed question, many successful fishermen advocating the use of wire traces, and many perhaps equally successful, although perhaps now in a minority, advocating gut traces.

Gimp is not often used in this country, although much so at home for pike traces. It is supposed to deteriorate by climate, but I have found a light gimp trace, after lying by for six years, sufficiently powerful for a 44 lb. fish, which gave right good play. With reference, however, to the question of Wire *versus* Gut, I must confess that I am still in favor of the latter article as a material for traces, and I consider that a fairly stout treble gut-trace is sufficient for anything.

For my own part I have been most unlucky when using wire traces, and have lost several splendid fish by them. As, however, I stated before, opinions on this matter differ greatly, as for instance, on referring to Mr. H. S. Dunsford's *Diary of Fishing near Dadupore and Tajuwala* in Part II of this book, it will be seen how unfortunate he was when using wire traces, and on referring to General Dandridge's account of fishing at Torbela, it will be seen that he used nothing but wire traces and did not have a single breakage. On looking through the "*Angler's Book*" at Tangrot, it will be noticed that the records of breakages, when using gut or wire traces, as the case may be, is about equal, one angler having been unlucky enough to lose two very heavy fish in one afternoon on wire traces. Of course this greatly depends on what kind of wire is used, how twisted, and how annealed or tempered. Wire traces are, doubtless, finer and less conspicuous than gut ones, but when a fish is on the feed, I do not think that this makes much difference.

The great objection to wire traces is their liability to kink, by which, doubtless, most of the breakages recorded are caused.

They are almost useless for casting a spoon, as they then kink and become quite unfit for use, and often break in the act of casting. With wire traces the use of "Pennell" swivels described in Part I, Chapter I, will be found advantageous, and they greatly lessen the chances of kinking which so often happens. With reference to which kind of wire is best suited for traces, there is also much argument. Very neat steel wire traces can be procured from some tackle makers, but copper or brass wire have perhaps been most generally used, but these are now going out in favor of steel wire. Some care is required in annealing or tempering the wire used, for which notes are herewith given; but I have lately heard from a member of the Fishing Club, and one who has fished for years

in India, and with almost as much experience as any one in the country, that he has found out that the great secret in steel wire traces is not to anneal or temper them in any way. The following are recipes for annealing different wires :—

*Brass Wire*.—Place the coil in a gentle heat, *i.e.*, between 90° and 100° Fahrenheit, and when red hot, in about three minutes time, remove the coil and allow it to cool in a dry place, not exposed to the breeze, so as to allow it to cool gradually. *Copper Wire* may be annealed in the same manner, but it certainly seems, from the pliable nature of this kind of wire, that annealing is scarcely necessary. *Steel Wire* may be annealed by boiling in oil for 20 minutes and allowing the wire to remain in the oil until cooled down, when it should be taken out and rubbed with a flannel. Dr Percy's book, "Metallurgy—Iron and Steel," gives many methods and ways of annealing. Traces for heavy fishing are usually 1½ yards long and furnished with three swivels, longer traces may be used with advantage if preferred.

*Swivels*.—The same remarks given on this subject, regarding swivels required for light fishing, in Chapter I, hold good with reference to heavy fishing, and particularly so the instructions regarding the preparation of the swivel by grinding it and oiling it before use. Very large swivels are not required even when the heaviest fish are expected, and very often one sees swivels unnecessarily large being used, particularly on traces made, and sent out to India, specially for large Mahseer.

The following notes on swivels, kindly furnished by Mr. T. P. Luscombe, of Allahabad, a Member of the Club, may prove useful :—

"I will first commence with swivels themselves and treat of them in the following rotation :—(1) Blued Steel ; (2) Brass ; (3) Aluminium ; (4) German Silver ; (5) Nickel-plated Steel.

*Blued Steel*.—All that can be desired in point of strength and color, but it is simply impossible to keep them from

rusting and corroding the gut or other material of the trace joined to the eyes of the swivel; for this reason, I have condemned them, and never use them in any of my traces for sale or use, unless specially ordered.

*Brass*.—Is very good, cheap and lasting, and quite strong enough for all purposes where large swivels are admissible, but where a fine swivel is required, as at the head of spoonflies, etc., they are not strong enough, and I have often found them fail.

*Aluminium*.—I was induced to try these by what I saw, and heard about the capabilities of this alloy in the Calcutta Exhibition, but, on trial, they signally failed when tried by me.

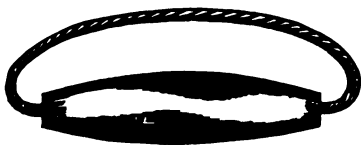
*German Silver*.—My experience is that the same remarks apply to this alloy as to Aluminium, and they have signally failed when tried by me.

*Nickel-plated Steel* (plating as heavy as possible).—These are, in my opinion, by far, the best, strongest and most reliable swivels of all. I have seldom lost a good fish, and in fact I cannot remember the loss of even one good fish through the breakage of these swivels where they have had fair play. All my traces are mounted with them and they allow of finer swivels being used on the traces than any other kind."

The above remarks will doubtless be found useful, but my own experience about swivels is, that I am quite indifferent as to what materials they are made of, and although I use smaller swivels on my traces for heavy fish than most anglers do, I have not had a single swivel fail since I have fished in this country. I attribute this solely to keeping the swivels well oiled and cleaned, and subjecting them to the grinding process described before. Of course I carefully inspect my swivels before use, and throw away any that appear much worn—prevention being better than cure. Blued Steel swivels however corrode the gut.

*Leads*.—I have myself never used any kind of lead whatever when spinning for Mahseer, and have always been

able to work the spoon quite deep enough without the use of such, although there are many men who never fish without them. In fishing a pool, it is very easy to work the spoon from two to three feet under water, and when trolling from a boat, in the fashion in vogue at Tangrot, it will be found that, with sufficient line out, the spoon can be spun 10 feet under water if required. I, moreover, think a lead is very likely to cause a foul, and is, in many ways, objectionable. If, however, one is attached, it should be done *so by a separate thread*, and on no account whatever should the line be passed through a hole in the lead as is so often done. A simple

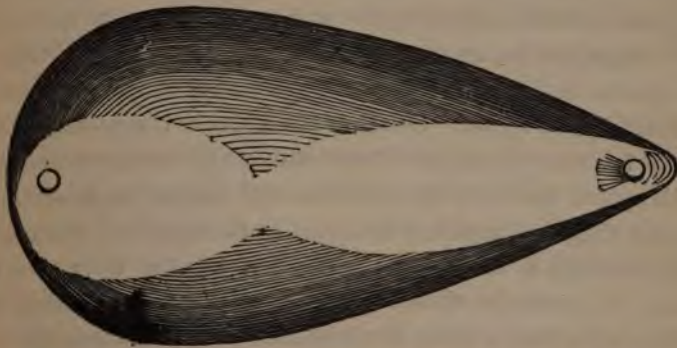


loop is all that is necessary, as in the marginal sketches. The line is run through the two loops A and B, and the lead remains close to the line. The advantage of this is, that if the lead has got jammed between two stones, as is often the case, when the Mahseer sulks and starts off again ; the

lead in the meanwhile having sunk to the bottom ; the thread at once snaps, and the fisherman loses only a lead, worth, perhaps, a pice or two, instead of a costly trace and spoon, perhaps a 40-pounder, and invariably his temper. The thread fastening the lead should be purposely made weak so as to ensure its breaking before the line does in case of a foul as above described. This method is also by far the quickest and most convenient way of fastening the lead to the trace, as it can be twisted on and off the trace or line at any place desired in a moment. Thick pack thread is perhaps the best material to use for this purpose.

*Spoons.*—For fishing for heavy Mahseer, a suitable sized spoon, according to the size of fish expected, should be used.

From two to four inches are the best sizes, but I think that a spoon of three or three-and-a-half inches is the best all round, and sufficiently large enough for anything. One sometimes sees enormous spoons used, but I do not think they are particularly successful. As to the shape of the spoon, there are many opinions, and the remarks made in Chapter I hold good here with reference to shape and color. The best color of all being, I think, silver on one side and dull gold or brass on the other. However, in dirty water, a spoon silvered on both sides is often effective. Although a small spoon should spin with great rapidity and evenness, I do not consider this so necessary for the large spoon. Large Mahseer are often very lazy, and a wobbling spoon spun slowly seems often to tempt them before a very quickly revolving one. They naturally imagine it to be a wounded fish, and, therefore, more easily to be seized and caught than an unwounded one. Below is a diagram of what I consider the best shape for a



spoon of large size, and different sizes can easily be made up, the *shape* still remaining the same. Spoons of this description, up to four inches in length, can be made up by any good *bazaar mistri* for four annas or less, and one can silver them for himself with the "Argentine" described in Chapter I. The metal should be of a medium thickness, and not too



thin. Having these spoons slightly hogged is an improvement, as they can then be made flatter, and they will more readily spin in slack water, or even when drawn down stream and across the current, in which position I have often taken good fish. With reference to mounting these large spoons, never trust to split rings. They are treacherous in the extreme, and even the best often snap without any apparent provocation. They are, however, very convenient in changing spoons, etc., and, for this reason, many use them. The triangles should be fastened to the spoon, and the spoon itself to the end swivel of the trace by a lashing of wire, copper being the best. Not many turns are required, and it is a thing that one's *shikari* or native attendant should be able to do with ease with a few lessons. One does not want to be continually changing spoons, and a couple of different spoons, mounted with this wire fastening, should be sufficient; each spoon having its separate trace which is changed with the spoon, and a new trace and spoon substituted. The angler will find this method simpler and quicker in the end than split rings and far safer; if he likes to be constantly changing his spoon, let him have half-a-dozen traces, each with its separate kind of spoon. See that the holes in the spoon are not bored too near the edge of the metal. This is a common fault with spoons made up by *mistries*, and unless they are cautioned, they will bore the hole just at the edges of the metal, and although I have never lost a fish by the hole wearing away, I certainly should have if I had not condemned the spoon beforehand when the hole had worn considerably.

A diagram of a spoon mounted with triangles, with wire instead of split rings, is given on Plate No. 4.

*Triangles.*—These should be made specially strong and solid. In fact they are perhaps the only part of the tackle for Mahseer which require to be specially made. The ordinary Salmon rod, reel, and line do perfectly well for all Mahseer

fishing, so does the ordinary treble gut-trace, and the spoon, as made for pike-fishing at home, but the ordinary triangle seen in England is useless for Mahseer. The Mahseer's power of compression is enormous, and although one seldom hears of a spoon being crunched up, although this even sometimes happens, the spoon having been taken into its mouth at the required angle to get the leverage on to it ; one often hears of crunched and broken triangles which, no matter in what position they enter the fishes' mouth, are always liable to this destructive process. Have, I say, small, compact, powerfully made triangles in preference to large ones, and with large bends to the hooks. Perfect triangles in this respect are manufactured by Messrs. Alcock & Co., of Redditch, and which are practically unbreakable. There is a great knack in selecting suitable sized triangles for a spoon. As I said before, I consider a large spoon should always be mounted with "head" and "tail" triangles in preference to the "flying mount" described in Chapter I when treating on small spoons ; and which is now so successfully and generally used. These "head" and "tail" triangles should not be the same size, the "head" triangle being somewhat smaller than the "tail" triangle. If this is not attended to, it will be sometimes found that the spoon will not spin at all, or at the most in a very erratic fashion. If so, this is entirely due to the triangles, which either are too heavy for the spoon, or else are not properly balanced. The greatest care should at all times be taken to see that the hooks are sharp and in good order.

Having discussed the above various articles of tackle requisite for heavy Mahseer fishing, I would point out before proceeding to give details for their capture by other methods than the spoon, that all the above-mentioned articles are absolutely necessary for a beginner to commence with ; and I will here give a detail of the cost of the most moderate outfit for heavy fishing that a beginner can well commence

with, again cautioning him that it is bad policy to trust to very cheap articles on which so much depends,—the spoon being the only article which has not got to stand a test of strength or lasting power ; as I said before, its quality does not so much matter, so long as its color and shape is such as to induce the fish to seize it, which having done so, the work that the spoon has to do ceases, and the other parts of the anglers' outfit are called into play. Above all things, have the very best reel and best hooks obtainable.

To commence fishing for large fish, the following outfit and gear would at least be required to begin with :—

				Approximate Price.	
				Rs A. P.	
One 16 or 18 foot rod	...	...	Rs 30 0 0 to	45 0 0	
One 5-inch reel as before described	...	...	...	25 0 0	
150 to 200 yards of Line of Manchester Cotton Spinning Company's Line	...	...	Rs 12 0 0 to	15 0 0	
If American Line	...	...	„ 25 0 0 to	30 0 0	
Half-a-dozen traces, wire or treble-gut, from	Rs 1-8 to Rs 2-8				
each, say	...	...	...	12 0 0	
Half-a-dozen spoons of sizes, 2 to 4 inches, with triangles.	If				
purchased at tackle-shop, say	...	...	...	12 0 0	
If made up by oneself	...	...	...	5 0 0	
Spare triangles, wire or split rings as preferred, swivels and other sundries	...	...	...	10 0 0	
				<hr/>	
				Highest Total	... 134 0 0
				Lowest Total	... 94 0 0
				or approximately	... 120 0 0
				<hr/>	

Of course the above estimate can be lessened by picking up second-hand rods or reels, or spoons, but second-hand lines or traces are never to be depended upon, and should always be regarded with suspicion. The above, as I before stated, is a low estimate, and does not include any tackle for live-baiting, or other methods of fishing, but it is

hoped that it will give a general idea as to what is required to start on a trip with, say, to Tangrot for 8 or 10 days, and I may say that the question "what kind and quantity of tackle do I want to go on 10 days' leave to Tangrot with?" or elsewhere, where large fish are expected, has often been asked me; of the six spoons I should have one 2 inches long, one  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, two of 3 inches, one  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and one of 4 inches in length. With reference to rods, a 16-foot one is sufficiently long enough and powerful for all general purposes, but sometimes when following a fish among large boulders and stones a long rod is a great advantage, as the line can be carried over rocks and other impediments that it would inevitably catch or foul in if using a short rod. As to other baits and methods of taking Mahseer besides the spoon, I will go in to them in detail as follows:—

*Phantoms, Archimedean Baits, and other fancy imitations.*—There are many of these manufactured and offered to the public, but the majority of them may be put down as fancy articles and quite unnecessary. A good soleskin phantom will sometimes prove killing, but on the whole there is nothing that comes up to the spoon, and it may be taken as a general rule that if the fish refuse this, they are not likely to be tempted with anything else, although at times there may possibly be exceptions. Spinning the "Chilwa," as described in Chapter I, may be practised for the larger fish with success, using, of course, the big rod, line, etc., and a flight somewhat stronger and more heavily mounted than before described.

*Fishing with Dead-bait.*—Fishing with dead-bait for large fish is often very effective when the water is colored, and in the spring more so than in the autumn. The *modus operandi* is much the same for fishing with a dead "Chilwa" as described in Chapter I, that is as regards the mounting, etc. The bait should be a small Mahseer from two to six ounces

in weight, which is the best size. The mount should be composed of one very large single hook and a sliding lip hook above it adjustable to the length of the bait used. This should be mounted on a piece of treble-gut of any length, even a foot long or so being sufficient, and it should be attached by a fairly strong swivel to the running line. The big hook should be passed through the gills and inserted into the side of the fish and worked with finger and thumb in a downward and circular direction until the point emerges near the vent or tail ; the lip hook, which should be a powerful and large one, as the fish often gets hooked by this alone, is hooked through both lips from below.

This tackle is very simple, easily made, and not liable to any complication. The bait may be bound about with white thread behind the gills which will tend to strengthen it, and the gut being taken in with this binding, the fish will not be so liable to bend or double up. The lip hook should be arranged so as to be very stiff, and only to be moved up and down with difficulty. A bait prepared like this will last a day easily, and that the fish are not particular about its freshness, the following anecdote will prove:—An angler who had fished with one bait in the Jhelum for two days without success, threw the bait away (they were only to be procured with great difficulty). A native picked up the bait, then decomposed, and putting it on his line caught a fine fish scaling 47lbs. on the remains of it next morning.

At times this dead-bait fishing is most successful. A well-known fisherman and member of the Club, getting two fish, one 42lbs. the other 38lbs., by the above method in one morning in the spring of 1883.

It is, however, slow work, but then no one would attempt it for large fish except in dirty water unfit for the spoon. Dead-bait fishing with "Chilwa" for smaller fish is often exciting work, as one sometimes gets continual runs ; but

with a big picketed bait, these are not so numerous, but then when a fish does take a bait, say of a quarter of a pound, it is generally a "big 'un." No lead is required, and the method of fishing is to cast the bait out into the deepest part of the pool, and letting it sink, leave it there. A convenient way of getting it out is for a native to swim out and drop it at the required spot, or, if one has a boat, to send it out by boat and do the same. A bait of this kind is, perhaps, most effective, at the end of a run, into a large pool it can be let out from above and will sink in the slack water of its own accord. A diagram of this tackle is given on Plate No. 5.

*Atta fishing.*—"Atta" fishing for large Mahseer is practised in just the same way as before described, the best kind of hook being a large sized Salmon hook—mounted for preference on treble-gut.

*Fishing with Frog.*—Another method of taking Mahseer, and which appears to be extremely killing in the River Mahl, is with a frog. In fact for this river a frog is the bait of all others, and they take it at times in preference to a spoon, or any other bait. The Mahl, however, seems to be about the only place where this is effective.\* The river which flows through rocky gorges and valleys does not appear to contain any "Chilwa" at all, at least as far as I can ascertain, or at all events very few, and I likewise noticed very few small fish of other descriptions. There are, however, along its banks, narrow strips of ground, flooded and cultivated with rice. These rice beds swarm with frogs, and on a flood coming down, many are doubtless washed down stream into the main river. It is extraordinary how each river has its favorite bait—For instance, in the Ner-budda, the fish will look at nothing but parched gram or rice, owing to the numerous "ghâts" and temples along the banks

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\* Since this work has been sent to the press, the Compiler has heard of several very large fish being taken in the Jhelum, near Sopor, Kashmir, with frogs, and also that in Kashmir this bait is often used.

from which the Hindus feed the fish with it, and throw great quantities in. In the Chiblat, melon seed seems to be a favorite bait, there being a lot of melon beds along the banks, from which the stuff must get washed or thrown in. In the Sohan, "Chilwas" abound, and this seems to be the bait for this river. In the Leh, there are numerous "panchakies" from which "atta" gets washed in. The fish collect near these, and they will take "atta," although perhaps not in preference to other baits, but more readily than they do in most other streams; and in the Mahl, the river under reference, they take a frog greedily, because it abounds along the banks; many may ask what kind of tackle should be used with a frog. The best appears to be as follows:—Take a medium sized Salmon hook, on single or treble gut as preferred, whip on a small lip hook above it, say  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch facing the reverse way—and from this point attach two single hooks on lengths of gut about an inch long to hang one on each side of the frog's body. Bait as follows:—Pass the big hook in at the mouth and out at the vent; pass the lip-hook through both lips; the two flying hooks should hang, one on each side of the body. Then take a piece of khaki thread and bind the frog about with it just under the arm-pits, taking in the two flying hooks, or leaving them loose as preferred. It is quite immaterial the frog being dead, in fact it is best to kill it by a knock on the head before baiting. The method of working it is to cast it in at the head of a rapid and let it run down, and if not taken at once, keep on letting it out, and then slowly winding it up again.

Sometime the frog turns over on its back which should not be. A grain of No. 1 shot attached to the thread under the chest by which the frog is tied will keep him upright and in a proper position.

A diagram of the above description of mount is given on Plate No. 6 at the end of the book. Although this kind of

fishing, *vis.*, with frog, is included in this Chapter, which is intended to refer only to fishing for large Mahseer, it is in fact almost more applicable to "light" fishing than to "heavy," and fish of a pound or under will take a large frog readily. At the time of writing the manuscript for Chapter I, the writer had had no personal experience of fishing with frog, which he has had since, or this description of fishing would have been included in Chapter I.

*Method of landing large Fish.*—For fish of any size over 7 or 8 lbs. it will be found that a landing net is not necessary. The usual way adopted to land a large Mahseer, is to draw him up as far as possible towards shore, and then the native attendant, standing over it, with both hands grasps the fish behind the gills and lifts it out on the bank. I do not think that I have ever seen a fish lost by an adept at this, and moreover, directly the hand touches the fish, he seems to remain perfectly passive and does not struggle or kick, which at such a critical moment, if he did so, would render his capture much more difficult.

There are occasions when a gaff would be very useful, such as, when a fish is hooked off a rocky ledge or precipice, which goes sheer down to the water, where there is no shelving bank to run the fish upon.

One, however, very seldom sees a gaff used out here, the reason being, I suppose, the difficulty in getting a native to handle it properly, and not always having the same men with you, even if one or two have been taught to do so.

*Notes on fishing for other kinds of Fish besides the Mahseer.*—In fishing for Mahseer one sometimes takes other kinds of fish as well, and although it is not intended to go fully into the different kinds, the object of these notes being to put beginners in the way of catching Mahseer, yet a few hints on the same may be of use.



*The Rohu.*—This fish is sometimes taken when fishing with "atta" for Mahseer. It is found in sluggish water for preference, although I have taken them almost in a rapid. They run up to 20 lbs. or so, and if fishing purposely for them, single gut and a very small triangle is recommended, and a paste bait colored yellow or vermillion with turmeric (*huldee*). They are a better eating fish than the Mahseer; have fewer bones, and fight well when hooked, and although they do not go off *at first* with a rush like the Mahseer, yet *at the end* when you think he is going to be safely taken into the landing net he will go off with a rush into the middle of the stream, that is astonishing.

*The Butchwa.*—This little fish can be caught during the rains and in dirty water in great numbers, and also when the water is clear, but I prefer it colored. It fights splendidly and is excellent eating. They take a fly and small spoon in clear water and a worm and clotted blood in dirty water. A light rod, running line and fine gut cast with a single hook about the size required for perch fishing at home is necessary if fishing with worm or clotted blood; and a small fly of almost any color seems to tempt them when on the feed. At Jhelum, one rod could take eighteen or twenty in an evening in June or July just above the church and not 500 yards from one's bungalow. Again, at Tangrot, when the water has been too dirty for Mahseer, half-a-dozen or so can be taken off any of the boats moored along the bank, using clotted blood as a bait. The boatmen will procure this when any animal is killed. It is a bit troublesome to put or rather keep on the hook, but a fine thread tied round it will, to a great extent, prevent it slipping or coming off.

Again, often when fishing with a small spoon in the Jungoo pool in the Poonch, I have taken good Butchwa. They run up to a pound-and-a-half and I have heard of them of 2lbs. When fishing with worm or blood a small roach float is recommended

*The Tingra.*—This fish is found in great quantities in the Sohan, they are a fish somewhat in shape like a dogfish with a flat head and mouth and long feelers with a large forked tail. When fishing with "Chilwa" (dead-baiting) they are often caught and give most excellent play. They are, however, not very good eating and not worth fishing specially for,—I have however, known a dozen, averaging 2 lbs. each, taken out of a hole in the Sohan by one rod in an afternoon, and such sport is not to be despised.

*The Wallago Attu* alias "*Mullee*," "*Gwalli*," or "*Laki*," or "*Fresh-water Shark*."—These fish run to an immense size. At Tangrot the angler sometime takes one or two, when trolling a large spoon, and I have known a Mullee of only a pound weight take a spoon four inches long. They give no play to speak of, and are not much in a culinary point of view.

They seem to be fish of peculiar disposition. In the autumn seasons, 1882 and 1883, a good number were taken at Tangrot, whereas since then very few have, the biggest I have seen taken there was 10 lbs. There is no mistaking this fish, his mouth has myriads of teeth in it, and he has one long fin under his belly, nearly the whole length of his body. For those interested in this fish a perusal of Captain Maycocks' very interesting "*Account of Fishing at Narora near Allyghur*" will be useful, where it is described under the name of "*Gwalli*."

*The Indian Trout* or "*Gulabi Mutchli*."—This little fish gives right good sport and takes a fly with great voracity. He is not found very much in the Punjab, but in the rivers of Gwalior and other parts of Central India, every little nullah almost holds them. Eighty to one rod in a single day have been taken near Jhansi, running about four to eight ounces a piece. The very finest tackle and lightest ten-foot trout rod are required for this fishing. Almost any

small fly, with white or yellow in the wings, will be found killing.

There are many other kinds of fish, which are sometimes taken when fishing for Mahseer, but the above are those most commonly met with in the Punjab. Farther down-country, many more varieties of fish are taken, and in the North-West and Central India, tank fishing can be practised with success. The Punjab is wonderfully denude of tanks, at least those of such a kind as are found down-country and which hold such vast quantities of fish.

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### CHAPTER III.

"Miscellaneous information, notes, recipés, etc., regarding Mahseer fishing generally."

**SEASONS.**—In India there is not much doubt but that March and October are the two best months for fishing in most waters, and on the whole, the spring fishing is the best ; but, of course, in different rivers, the seasons differ according as to whether the water is affected by the melting snows. For instance, fishing in the Poonch after the middle of April is almost impossible, as the river is swollen by the melted snows ; whereas the Mahl, only three or four marches distant, and in the same territory, is beautifully clear until the rains commence in July, and in fact, March seems to be almost too early for this stream. Again, in the small streams round Pindi, which are not affected by snow water, fishing can be carried on almost all the year round. As a general rule, December, January, and February are blank months, but General Dandridge's wonderful bag made at Torbela last January, and recorded in Part II, shews that on occasions the fish will take ravenously even in the cold weather. This is, however, very rare, and quite exceptional, and, as a general rule, it may be taken for granted that there is no fishing obtainable during these months.

*General Notes regarding Tackle.*—In this country one must be constantly overhauling one's fishing tackle, varnishing, oiling, drying and looking after it in a way not required in England. It is in this particular that many fishermen out here generally entirely fail. How often one sees a stock of tackle, all mixed and tangled up, put aside perhaps for months. The gut dries, the whippings of hooks become rotten, and the line perishes, and then the angler is surprised at fish lost and numerous breakages. Every one should have a tin tackle

case in which to hold all his things. Mr. T. P. Luscombe, of Allahabad, supplies excellent ones, but one can usually be made up by any good tinsmith to the pattern preferred, for a very small sum. It should have trays and partitions for everything and should be big enough to hold a large reel, say a five-inch one. A wooden case should also always be used for one's rods, and which should hold landing or gaff handle as well. In fact it will be found that the whole of one's stock of tackle can be carried in these two boxes, and which are most convenient, portable and compact, and will in the end save their original cost by the way the tackle is preserved and kept. One sometimes sees a valuable and perhaps a new Salmon rod, or a little ten-foot Trout rod fresh from Farlow's shop, most delicately made and with all the latest improvements thrust into a bundle of tent-poles, or tied on along the side of a bullock cart, or to a load on a camel or mule, by some ignorant bearer or servant, the owner not troubling to inquire about it, as to how it is packed or placed, but expressing great surprise a few weeks later, at the rod having warped, perhaps a joint cracked, or a ferrule become loose, doubtless, abusing the maker; whereas, with careful packing, none of the above defects would have happened for years. Again, how often one sees a rod with the whippings of the rings all loose and frayed, and which necessitates generally entirely re-whipping, which would have been prevented, if the whippings had been done over periodically, say twice a year with almost any kind of varnish, the best being made of shellac or sealing wax dissolved in spirits of wine, or a bottle of this stuff ready made can be bought from almost all the Indian tackle shops for about a rupee. A bottle of Walter Locke & Co.'s (Calcutta) "Fishermen's Varnish" is invaluable. Every six months or oftener, all rod whippings should be done over with it, and all hook and swivel whippings, and heads of flies touched up

It preserves the whipping, which is not exposed to the air, strengthens it, and smartens the tackle generally. The fisherman at home, is, as a rule, far more careful in these matters than his Indian brother, although at home, the climatic influences are not so hurtful, and tackle is cheaper and more easily procured. One is often asked what is the best way to keep rods in this country, which is not an easy question to answer ; our own experience is that the more they are exposed to the air the better, and have found a small rack, similar to a miniature gun rack, fastened to the wall the best method of keeping them, each joint having a separate place. They can thus be inspected from time to time, and any defect noticed, at once repaired. An occasionally rubbing in of linseed oil is advantageous, and a fresh coat of varnish should be given from time to time.

The instructions given in Chapter I regarding the drying of lines should be carefully carried out.

It is wonderful how soon a line becomes rotten when this is neglected. Old lines may be redressed with advantage and recipés and detailed instructions for this will be found at the end of this Chapter.

The notes regarding the constant oiling and preparation of swivels are important, and, as before stated, a swivel prepared in the method before described is worth three or four swivels in the rough. As to hooks, it should always be noticed before using them whether they are sharp, and in every way perfect. Many fish are lost owing to inattention to this point.

Very often one sees a reel used on a rod not having proper sized winch-fittings to secure it properly, and becoming loose, the reel falls off, perhaps into deep water at one's feet, and at a critical moment, the angler endeavours to pull it in, but the more he pulls, the more the reel unwinds, and until all the line is pulled off it, it cannot be raised. All know, who have had this accident happen to them, how aggravating it is. It

can be easily prevented by cutting a slip of leather, the same size as the plate on the reel, which is held by the fittings, and putting it underneath, when the chances are that it will be held sufficiently tight, of course if the fittings are too long or too short, either they, or the plate on the reel, must be altered.

How important it is again to see that one's reel is in constant order, and kept slightly oiled, with the finest gunlock oil. The check-springs and cog-wheel should be occasionally examined and cleaned, for, if not, after a lot of use, a collection of filings, and minute bits of steel will be found; and which, at a critical moment, may clog the action and prevent the reel from revolving properly. I have even heard stories of anglers losing the whole of their line and a big fish, by not having secured the end of the line to the spindle of the reel, or at all events by an insecure and inefficient knot; which "pulled out" or became undone on being subjected to a sudden strain. Such gross carelessness as this, however, should meet with the fitting reward above described, *viz.*, the loss of the whole line and a large fish; after which it would not be likely to happen a second time.

I will now proceed to treat about that much abused and badly treated article in this country, *viz.*—

*Gut.*—It is wonderful the number of times one hears of a fish being lost because the gut was rotten. Would it not, in nine cases out of ten, be more strictly correct, to say because "I did not take the trouble to examine it, or prepare it properly by soaking it before use." We think it would. I may perhaps be prejudiced in favor of gut, but I almost entirely disbelieve in gut absolutely getting rotten. It dries up and doubtless *seems rotten when in this condition*, but it can generally be rendered as good as new by judicious and sufficient soaking. The whippings become rotten and often break, on account of not being looked after, and the gut is made to bear the blame! All gut traces and casts should

be put between the folds of saturated flannel, at the least the *night before*, and into water at least half an hour before use. Old gut that has long been disused should be softened and rendered pliable *gradually and by degrees*, and not plunged into water at once. Plunging old gut at once into water, is too much for it, if it is put between the folds of damp flannel or cloth, the fibres will gradually be relaxed and swell, and the gut will eventually attain its old power and pliability. A small portable India-rubber bucket, is a very useful article. The gut can be put into it, between damp folds of flannel, and when actually fishing the traces required for use can be put in water, kept in it for the purpose.

Again, in tying a loop to the end of a trace, or in doing anything in the way of mounting hooks on gut, or making up a trace, it is most important that the gut should be soaked, and even in attaching a hook, the end of the loop to the gut will sometimes crack and split if not made pliable first. In preparing strands of gut for a trace, or for mounting hooks on, how seldom, in this country, do we see the ends of each piece singed in a candle, which instructions were given by good old Isaack Walton over two hundred years ago. The result of singeing the gut is that a tiny knob, or swelling, is formed at each end of the strand, and this is most important, when whipping on hooks, as it prevents them drawing.

As to the best color of gut, many advocate it dyed blue. However, in our opinion, white undyed gut is the best, as it is transparent, and must be much the same color as the water and the sky to a fish looking up from below. However gut dyed to various colors is everywhere procurable, and if the angler wishes to color it himself on the spot, he can do so by the following means :—

To dye gut *Green*.—Boil a strip of green baize, dropping a small piece of alum into it, and then steep the gut in the warm liquor.



To dye gut *Blue*.—Warm some ink and soak the gut in it, but do not let it stay too long. It can be stained to any degree of color, according to the time it is soaked.

Gut is also very liable to get eaten into by the rust on swivels made of steel, and this is an objection to using swivels of blued-steel. This happens at the bends of the gut round the rings of the swivels and should be carefully watched for. It is in fact a good thing to test one's gut traces before use, but *after* they have been soaked by pulling steadily on them, until a fairly heavy strain is established.

*Making up tackle, mounts, etc., etc.*—A great deal more in this direction might be done by sportsmen themselves, than is usually the case out here. It is so wonderfully convenient when out on a trip to be able to do odds and ends for oneself to say nothing of the expense saved—all my single gut traces I make up myself, also all mounts, whether for spoons, dead bait, or anything else. All such jobs, as ring-ing a rod, fitting on new ferrules and counters, splicing a joint, mounting spoons, etc., should all be done on an emergency. It is often surprising, with little care and instruction, how clever natives often get in this kind of work, and of what use they are.

*Sundries.*—Every angler should have an assortment of the following sundries to guard against accident and disappointment, in addition to the articles roughly detailed in the two lists given previously :—

A supply of swivels of various sizes.

A few split-rings (for small spoons and also for large if preferred).

Two or three baiting needles of sizes.

Spare sinkers (if used). A clearing ring is sometimes useful.

A pair of small pliers.

A pair of small scissors.

Spare rod rings.

Spare top rings (revolving steel cored as before described).

Cobbler's wax—real English.

Annealed wire, copper or brass, often useful even if not used for traces.

Silks of two or three thicknesses.

Spare gut.

Spare hooks, unmounted.

Silvering cream ("Argentine").

Hook or whipping varnish.

In addition to the above, a small vice is very useful, and if one makes up one's own wire traces, a twisting machine is indispensable. A steel yard up to 50 lbs. is another requisite.

If one goes in for making flies, the list of sundries above detailed would be much increased, spare ferrules and counters should also be on hand at all times.

*Wax.*—For whippings there is nothing better than the ordinary English cobbler's wax, an article not often seen out here. It is, however, procurable from most of the tackle shops in small boxes at one or two annas a piece. A small piece required for immediate use should be kept in the folds of a piece of parchment, which can easily be put into the small pockets of a fly book, and if kept in this method it does not stick to every thing, like a small box of it does, as from a box, in hot weather, the wax oozes out on all sides. A good recipe for wax is as follows :—To two ounces of best yellow resin in powder, add one drachm of white beeswax sliced in minute pieces ; put in a small jar or pipkin which place in a saucepan of boiling water, taking care that the water is so shallow as not to mix with the resin and wax. With a piece of stick stir until both the ingredients are thoroughly dissolved. Then add  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drachms of fresh lard, and let the whole simmer for 10 minutes, stirring often ; then pour

into a clean basin of cold water, and whilst warm, pull the wax and knead it with the fingers till nearly cold to give it toughness. Make up into small balls and keep in a tin box.

Ordinary cobbler's wax may be dissolved in spirits of wine till it is the consistency of butter. To dissolve it, put a small piece into a gallipot, with a very little spirits of wine, and tie a piece of bladder over the mouth of the gallipot. Then put the gallipot into a cup of warm water, and set it near the fire until dissolved.

*Weighing Fish.*—The angler will find a small Salter's spring balance weighing up to 25 or more pounds as required very useful. It is as well to get a 50 lb. balance at once, as it is a most useful article for weighing coolie's loads, parcels, and other things. Supposing, however, that you catch a fish too heavy for your spring balance to weigh, the following plan may be adopted :—Take your landing net, handle or other stick, fix two strong loops to each end. Then secure the fish to the *centre* of the stick, make an attendant hold one of the loops (at either end) and, at the same time apply the spring balance to *the other end*. Raise the whole up so that the fishes' tail is clear of the ground ; double the reading on the balance, which will be the correct weight. If the above is not plain, it will, by a little thought and reasoning, doubtless be so. Care must be taken to have the fish secured exactly in the centre of the stick, otherwise it will be inaccurate. If the fish be suspended not in the centre but nearer the end to which the balance is applied, the reading will be more than half the fishes' weight, whereas if it is suspended nearer the end held by the assistant, it will be less the result when doubled, giving a proportionately greater inaccuracy either way as the case may be. Again, in the absence of a weighing machine, the following formula and calculation will be found practically correct:—*First*, take the length and girth of the fish in inches ; add together the length, and

one-third of the length ; multiply the result by the square of the girth, and divide by 1,000, and the result will be the weight of the fish in pounds. For instance, a fish is 45 inches long and 24 inches in girth, add to the length 45, one-third of the length, *viz.*, 15—the result is 60. Multiply this by the square of the girth which is  $(24 \times 24) = 576$ . The result is 34,560. Divide this by 1,000. The answer is the weight of the fish in pounds.

The fraction need not be taken into account, and it will be found that a fish of the above measurements will weigh very nearly 34 lbs. ; perhaps a pound more or less, but very near it. I have tested this with fish of all sizes up to 61 lbs., and it has proved to be, in every case, nearly correct. Of course the measurements will be taken differently by different people. The length for this calculation is taken from the mouth (closed) to the end of the tail ; and the girth is that of the thickest part of the fishes' body. Up to 50 lbs. this calculation should always give a result within 2 lbs. of what the fishes' weight is when tested by a steel-yard, the tendency being to be a little in excess of the actual weight than under it. Even when a large fish is to be weighed with a steel-yard, it will be found that, unless done at once, the fish, *i.e.*, one of 30 or 40 lbs., will lose 2 lbs. or more by drying, and unless a fish can be weighed directly he is taken out of the water, it will be found that this calculation is practically as accurate as a weighing machine.

I do not know on what this calculation is based, or whether it is merely a mathematical coincidence, but the result speaks for itself. I saw it years ago in an old fishing book at home, and on coming to India, I applied it to the Mahseer and found it to answer admirably.

*Packing and Carriage of Fish.*—Anglers often wish to send fish into cantonments to their friends, and sometimes they arrive in a state of decomposition, owing to the

following precautions having been neglected. First of all a fish of any size, if not very severely hooked, can be kept alive for days by being tied to a post or boat by a rope fastened through the gill. Perhaps a delay of two or three hours will result in getting a coolie, the fish, therefore, should be kept alive till ready to start, by being tied up to the bank or boat as before described.

For instance, at Tangrot, fish have often been caught in the morning and sent to Lahore or Rawul Pindi, even in fairly hot weather, by the following arrangement :—

The fish is kept tied up all day until the evening, it is then taken out and sent off to Dina, the nearest railway station in time to catch the midnight train, and the fish arrives either at Lahore or Pindi by 8 in the morning. (The trains going either way and both crossing each other at Dina.) Now if the fish had been sent off directly it was caught, it would, in all probability, have gone bad during the heat of the day, and arrived at its destination unfit for food. The most important thing of all is that directly the fish be taken out of the water to be killed and started off, it should be at once disembowelled and cleaned, but not with water, a bundle of grass and a dry cloth being the only things used. The inside should then be sprinkled with charcoal and salt, alternately. In England, stinging nettles are much used to pack fish in, and they greatly preserve their bloom and freshness. I do not know whether the English stinging nettle is to be found in India or not, but perhaps some of my readers who are botanists, might know of some plant with similar properties, and which might prove an efficient substitute. In the absence of stinging nettles, the fish should be packed in long grass.

*Records of Fishing Expeditions.*—Nothing is more satisfactory or valuable than for an angler to keep up a regular fishing diary of the whole of his fishing career in India. Not

only is it often of great use to others, but a pleasant hour or two can often be spent reading over one's records, and which often recall to memory happy days gone by, and friends far separated and with whom it will never be our luck again to fish or shoot in India. A diary to be of use should contain full information as to locality, description of fish, baits, different kinds of spoons, flies, etc., used, and all general remarks giving the dimensions of any very large fish caught, and any other particulars that may be of interest, such as whether the fish is a male or female, and any other notes. Also a brief description of the locality or river, together with all information regarding roads, supplies, carriage obtainable, camping-grounds, etc., should be recorded. The form given below will be found to be perhaps the most convenient, and to contain room for all information. No separate column is given for description of fish which, in nine cases out of ten, are Mahseer. If any other kinds are caught, a note of the description can easily be made in the column of remarks :—

Date.	River.	Plate.	Weight.	How caught.	REMARKS.

*Notes on Purchasing Tackle.*—There is no doubt but that it is much cheaper in the end to get tackle from England straight out, but this is often inconvenient to those who may require to have it in a hurry. The great thing in purchasing tackle is to send the order, whether to shops out here or at

Home, *in plenty of time*, to allow of the consignment of tackle, when received, being returned in case of any articles being wrong and the article exchanged ; of course, I do not mean the whole consignment, but very often among a lot of things, no matter how carefully the order may have been worded, and also attended to, by some misunderstanding or wrong nomenclature, an article is received that is not quite what it was intended to order.

If, however, there is time to return and exchange it, with a fuller explanation, it will doubtless be received right the second time.

It would perhaps be invidious to compare the merits or prices of the different firms\* who supply tackle in India, but Messrs. T. P. Luscombe, of Allahabad, Walter Locke & Co., Calcutta (late Walsh Lovett & Co.), Agents for Alcock & Co., of Redditch, R. B. Rodda & Co., of Calcutta, and Messrs. Scott & Co. and Long and Denny, of Rawul Pindi and Murree, are perhaps the best known. Messrs. T. P. Luscombe manufacture tackle, repair rods, etc., themselves, and have workshops for the purpose on their premises. They also make up rods, reels, mounts, etc., to order as required.

*Varnish for Fishing Rods.*—First clean the rods thoroughly with spirits of turpentine and use a varnish made of gum, shellac and spirits of wine, made into the consistence of ordinary varnish. A piece of cobbler's wax, about the size of two walnuts, should be added to each half pint of the varnish made. This varnish should be lightly rubbed over the rod for six consecutive days, and in a day or two afterwards it will be ready for use.

*Dressing for Lines.*—(1)—Dip the lines in linseed oil. Extend and dress off all superfluous oil by passing it through

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*N. B.*—The name of Messrs. Manton & Co., of Calcutta, has been inadvertently omitted from the list of firms who supply tackle ; they also are importers and manufacturers of every class of tackle and other requisites for Fishing.

the thumb and finger. Wind it on a frame and repeat the dressing once or twice within a fortnight's interval. Three weeks after the last dressing apply some mutton suet by passing the extended line between the fingers which hold a piece of raw mutton suet. The friction will melt the fat sufficiently to cause it to adhere to the line, which must afterwards be rubbed down with flannel. (2)—Or take of boiled linseed oil, one pint; beeswax,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; and melt the wax in the oil. Soak the lines well in the mixture, and, when well soaked, wind on a wooden frame, stripping the superfluous matter off between finger and thumb. Hang the line up to dry in an airy place. If, at the end of each season, the end of the line most used be dipped into this mixture, it will last for years. (3)—Or, again, take half a pint of boiled linseed oil, a piece of beeswax, about the size of a walnut, twice the quantity of pitch, and a tablespoonful of copal varnish. The procedure is as before described, care being however taken not to immerse the line into the mixture when it is too hot. It will take some little time to dry thoroughly. A small piece of India-rubber cut into shreds and dissolved in any of the above mixtures will greatly improve the dressing, which, when once made, should be kept for use in a wide-mouthed bottle, such as a pickle bottle, and well corked.

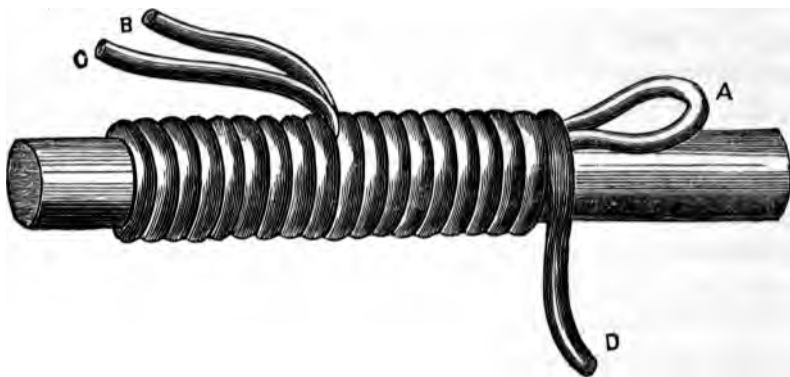
*Casting Nets.*—A casting net is a very useful article to have with one, as sometimes it is required to get baits, such as small Mahseer, for dead-bait fishing, as before described. The net should be made of fine twine, or better still, silk, and need not be anything like so large as those commonly in use at home.

*Tying and Splicing.*—For all whippings, etc., none but the very best English silk should be used, and care should be taken that before whipping it is thoroughly rubbed with English cobbler's wax, which is procurable at most of the tackle dealers in the country. One is often asked—"How



should a whipping be finished off?"—"I always find that mine come undone,"—or some such similar question. The method is as follows:—When only 10 or 12 more turns in the whipping remain to be taken, take a small piece of silk about 6 inches long (or whatever material you are whipping with) and lay it along the shank of the hook or whatever you are whipping. First having doubled it so that the loop end is towards the end *towards* which you are whipping, go on taking the turns as before for the remaining 10 or 12 times, but *including* this loop in the whipping.

The whipping at this stage will have the appearance as given in the following diagram. Having done this pass the end of the



silk you are whipping with, *vis.*, D, through the loop marked A in the figure and pull it taut. Then take between the finger and thumb the two ends of the small piece forming the loop, and which are marked B and C, and pull these until the end of the loop, and with which is drawn the original piece of silk, with which the whipping was being carried out is pulled in as it were *under* the last 10 or 12 turns of the whipping. The three ends which will at this point be found to protrude from the whipping are now cut off as close as possible, and the whipping varnished over. If a whip-

ping is finished off in this manner, it will, under ordinary circumstances, last for years. It is a difficult matter to explain the above method of fastening off a whipping, without actual ocular demonstration, but it is hoped that, with the help of the above diagram, it may be clear. This system is equally applicable, no matter whether a hook is being mounted on gut or whether a ring is being whipped on to a joint. A few remarks on splicing joints may be of use. It is not at all necessary to throw away, or condemn, a broken joint, as it can always be spliced so as to apparently be as good as new, and this is more the case with reference to top joints. I have one by me which has been broken and spliced three times. It is not always necessary to cut the ends of each piece of the joint broken perfectly smooth and even, if the break is a long and slanting one, as the inequalities of each piece will be found to fit exactly into each other. If, however, either end has been splintered, or the joint snapped off short, each piece must be cut evenly to an angle as shown in the following diagram :—



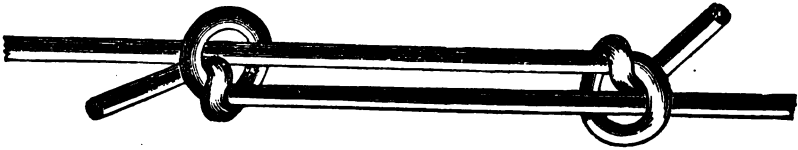
The splice should first be united with glue, and, when this is dry, whipped over with well waxed silk and varnished. In some cases a couple of small rings, or ferrules of brass, may be added with advantage to a lower joint, but the metal of which they are composed must not be too thick. They will be found to greatly strengthen a splice, but for a top joint, or the one below it, they should not be used, as the least extra weight to these joints destroys the balance of the rod.

A few words on the whippings and knotting of lengths of gut together to make a cast, or trace, may likewise be found useful. In selecting lengths of gut for a trace, the greatest

care should be taken that there are no flaws or weak places in the same ; each piece should be tested most carefully and examined. These pieces of gut will invariably be found to be thin and weak for some inches at each end ; all this should be cut off, and only the thicker part used, and this should be of uniform thickness. The ends of each piece should be singed, although this is not so necessary as when preparing a single length for whipping on a hook, and the gut should be thoroughly soaked and rendered pliable before any knotting is attempted. The lengths may be knotted in two ways. Firstly, as shown in Fig. 1 :—In this method



the ends should be cut down to about one-third of an inch long and the whole whipped over, *viz.*, from A to B. The second method of knotting is given in Fig. 2 :—Each length of gut is pulled till the knots tighten against each other ; the



ends should then be cut and whipped over as described above, and the whipping varnished. We forget the names of the above knots, but they are very simple and easy.

*Dead-bait, Preservation of.*—It may often be required to preserve dead-baits, or to take them to a place where they are not obtainable. To do this, immerse them in Methylated Spirit, or in Acetic Acid mixed with water (proportion one-third of Acetic Acid, two-thirds of water). As a temporary

measure, pack the baits in a tin box, like sardines, with plenty of salt ; they should be wiped dry first. A small slit in the belly to allow the salt to enter the body will do no harm.

*Worms, To scour.*—Although I have not made much mention regarding worm-fishing, it is, however, occasionally practised in muddy water and in the rains.

At Home, moss is invariably used to scour worms in, but as it is not procurable in this country (at least, I am not sure, but have never seen it), some other substitute must be used. Young wheat or any other crop chopped up and mixed with fine mould may be used, or even soft grass. The worms should be given three days to scour, and a little milk should be poured into the pot, in which they are in every day.

*Dress and Camp Outfit.*—With reference to a suitable dress for the angler in this country, it must be remembered that one almost always has to wade.

Waterproof long boots, wading trousers, etc., such as are used at Home, are useless in India.

For leg and foot-gear, nothing beats the ordinary broad-soled English shooting boot, which should not have too many nails in it. Thick woollen socks or stockings, and knee-breeches, or, if preferred, knickerbockers.

Putties can be worn, if preferred, and most men do wear them. For my own part, however, I prefer to have the leg bare below the knee, and have knee-breeches made loose and to unbutton, so as to turn up and secure *above* the knee. In a short time from the water and exposure to the sun, one's legs get quite hard, and no inconvenience is felt, socks being invariably worn with this dress. I am sure this plan is safer than wearing putties or long stockings ; these remain wet and damp and cling round the legs, after leaving the water ; whereas one's bare legs dry in a minute almost ! It is often necessary to fish, say, for half-an-hour, without wading, in which time putties or stockings will have partially

dried on the legs, and I think that fever, etc., is often caused by this, which would have been avoided if only boots and socks had been worn. Always wear a flannel shirt even in the hottest weather, and the thicker the better. A Norfolk jacket is the best kind of coat to wear, and no collar or anything white should be worn, as fish shy at once from anything white or flashing. The coat and breeches, or knickerbockers, should also be of a *khaki* or a neutral color, and also the hat or sola topee. What is called "*Shikar mixture*" is the best, or better still have one's clothes dyed with a mixture made of the bark of the babool tree boiled down, and which color is also best for shooting or stalking purposes. As a rule, sufficient attention is not paid to this matter, particularly by young sportsmen, and one often sees an angler in a white *topee* or helmet, and white flannel knickerbockers, surprised at not being able to catch fish, which at once fly off, on catching sight of such a conspicuous object. I have tested this again and again, and moreover always have my fishing attendant or *shikari*, who lands my fish for me, whether with a landing net, or by seizing them behind the gills, clothed in *khaki*, or else with nothing else but a waist-cloth or *dhoti* on; as if a man in white goes near, or approaches the fish from behind to seize it, they at once struggle and plunge and often make good their escape at this final stage.

*Camp Outfit and Equipage.*—I do not propose to say much on this heading, as it has often been discussed by abler and more experienced pens than mine, but still a few notes may not be out of place.

*Tents.*—The description of tents used is, of course, a matter of opinion and money. Whatever the kind of tent, it is useful to have a set of iron pegs and also a certain number of wooden pegs, to use according to the kind of ground. On the banks of rivers, one often has to camp among stones and rocky

places, where wooden pegs would be useless, and also sometimes on sand, where iron pegs would not hold in a gale of wind.

*Camp Furniture, etc.*.—Should be plain, strong and serviceable, all fancy dodges, extra light camp beds, spring folding-up chairs, etc., should be avoided. They are expensive, complicated, and break with rough usage. I fully believe that in the end it is cheaper to have strong heavy articles of camp furniture. Their carriage may cost more from place to place doubtless, but they will last three times the period a light flimsy article will, which has to be constantly repaired and renewed.

To give an example, I have in my possession a heavy solid camp table made of shishum wood, which I have carried about for six years, and it is as good as new, whereas other tables (I have had light ones, and not made of such heavy material as shishum) have cracked and smashed up over and over again. The heavy shishum table appears unbreakable, and the comfort derived from its stability, &c., is very great when compared to the rickety contrivances one's friends in camp often have. It is a mistake to be always thinking about cutting one's baggage and camp kit down as low as possible, and to endure unnecessary discomforts. Likewise all "canteens" and fancy cooking pots, &c., should be avoided. Nothing is better in the hands of the native of the country than the ordinary "degchi" to which he has always been accustomed. Again, as before stated, have a solid wooden rod case, sufficiently long to hold the longest joints, and a good tin tackle case with partitions for everything; and everything in its place. There is nothing more distressing than to see a friend produce his stock of tackle, either from a box, or even perhaps a havresack, all tangled up and twisted into an almost inextricable mass, the gut cracked, and the whole tackle more or less useless and ruined.



## PREFACE TO PART II.

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THE following notes and information regarding fishing localities have been compiled from notes and letters received by the Honorary Secretary from Members of the Club.

No attempt has been made at classification or grouping of the several localities ; but the notes and information have been entered in the order in which they were received from the several contributors.





## PART II.

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### CHAPTER IV.

"Fishing localities, information regarding which has been furnished by Members of the Club, or compiled from other sources, together with diaries and general information."

*1.—Torbela on the Indus—Hazara District—Notes by GENERAL DANDRIDGE, late Commanding, Peshawar District.*

(1.) *To reach Torbela*—By rail to Hassan Abdal, thence by tonga or ekka to Hurripur dâk bungalow, thence by tonga or ekka to Thaplah close to the Sirun, then either fish down to Torbela, ride, or walk. The khansama at Hurripur keeps ponies and ekkas. Hassan Abdal railway station is 28 miles from Rawulpindi, and Torbela is about 30 miles from Hassan Abdal.

(2.) *Bungalow accommodation and how procurable.*—There is a small bungalow belonging to the Salt Revenue Department, for use of which application should be made to Mr. Barton at Ghari, *via* Lawrencepur and Husroo. There is but one room in the bungalow, dressing-room and bath-room. No servants.

(3.) *Arrangements for boats.*—The Thanidar at Torbela will get a boat from Hubbul (or Kubbul) on the other bank of the Indus. The boatmen are very troublesome and independent, and will not turn out before 10 A.M., so that the morning's fishing is lost.

(4.) *Names of Shikaries, etc., etc.*—As a rule the fishing is only from one spot, and only for one rod, unless the Indus is very clear. No attendant fisherman is necessary, but there are a lot of local fishermen if one should be required.

(5.) *General notes.*—Fish seem to be on the move at all seasons, but fishing depends on the state of the Sirun. If it

is dirty you cannot fish at all. Medium size all-silver spoons for choice, and wire traces are recommended. The best place to fish is just where the Sirun joins the Indus. If the Indus is very clear, you can trail a spoon from a boat in the same manner as at Tangrôt, but the boatmen will not tow the boat, and separate coolies are necessary. The boats are large clumsy ferry-boats, and quite unadapted for fishing. The only two men at Torbela who can, in any way, assist the angler, with reference to landing fish, etc., are named Heera and Fuzl. It is advisable to write to the Deputy Commissioner regarding supplies, as these are not very readily procured. The "Kala banse" will also take a spoon at Torbela in addition to the Mahseer, and run up to 15 lbs. or so.

*The following is a Diary of a fishing trip to Torbela by GENERAL DANDRIDGE, in January, 1887:—*

"Arrived at Torbela on 23rd December, 1886, but had to wait until 3rd January, 1887, for the water to clear.

Date.	Weight.	Place caught.	How caught.	REMARKS.
3rd January 1887	{ 34 lbs.	At Torbela	All caught on a medium sized all-silver spoon.	
	{ 12 "	At Junction		
	{ 8 "	of Sirun,		
4th " "	Nil	Nil,		
	{ 32 lbs.	At Junction		
5th " "	{ 28 "	of Sirun.		
	{ 9 "	Do.		
	{ 7 "	Do.		
6th " "	{ 24 "	Do.		
	{ 21 "	Do.		
7th " "	{ 38 "	Do.		
	{ 25 "	Do.		
8th " "	30 "	Do		
9th " "	Did not fish	.....		
	{ 40 lbs.	Do.	All caught on a medium sized all-silver spoon.	Rain came on, but fished all through it.
	{ 38 "	Do.		
10th " "	{ 32 "	Do.		
	{ 10 "	Do.		
	{ 7 "	Do.		
11th " "	{ 10 "	Do.		
	{ 10 "	Do.		
12th & 13th " "	Nil			
14th " "	45 lbs.	Do.		
				Heavy rain, flooded and muddy.

Date.	Weight.	Place caught.	How caught.	REMARKS.
15th & 16th Jan. 1887	Did not fish.	.....		
17th " "	{ 15lbs.	At Junction of Sirun.	All caught on a medium sized all-silver spoon.	
18th " "	{ 14 "	Do.		
	{ 11 "	Do.		
19th " "	Nil			
	{ 20lbs.	Do.		
	{ 16 "	Do.		
	{ 15 "	Do.		
	{ 14 "	Do.		
	{ 12 "	Do.		

Total bag made in 13 days, actual fishing, 577 lbs. ; the average daily catch being 44 lbs., and the average weight of fish caught being over 20 lbs.

From the above account, it will be seen what splendid fishing is obtainable at Torbela even in the cold weather, and two anglers, some couple of years ago, took 900 lbs. weight of fish in 10 days. From all accounts, however, Torbela seems a very disappointing place, and many anglers go there and come away without a bag ; but this is the case with all the rivers in India.

## *II.—River Towi—(Bhimber).*

The undermentioned information and diary regarding the River Towi has been kindly furnished by Captain Mansel, 3rd Punjab Cavalry :—

(1.)—*How to get there.*—Nearest Railway Station, Gujrat.

Gujrat to Bhimber ... 36 miles by mail cart.

Bhimber to Saidabad ... 12 miles.

Saidabad to Nowshera ... 10 "

Nowshera to Changus ... 14 "

Changus to Rajaori ... 13 "

The above four marches, riding or walking.

Mules for riding and lading and coolies obtainable at each stage, where there is a rest-house, and supplies are obtainable.

There are no natives of any use in giving assistance while fishing. Fish are plentiful, but wary. Recommended one 14 feet rod double, and one 14 feet rod single. Spoons one-and-a-half to two inches long. Single Salmon gut traces. A large rod is of no use.

*Flies.*—Small "Cock-of-the-Walk."

*Diary of Captain Mansel.*

Date.	Place.	Weight.	River.	How caught.	REMARKS.
1886.					
9th Augt.	Nowshera.	<i>Nil</i>			Water less dirty ; thunder in air.
10th "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			
11th "	Ditto	5, 3 & 1 lb			
12th "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			
13th "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			Water dirty.
15th "	Changus	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb			
16th, 17th & 18th "	Ditto	.....			Did not fish.
19th "	Rajaori.	<i>Nil</i>			
20th "	Ditto	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs			
21st "	Ditto	2, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs			
22nd "	Ditto	2 lbs			
23rd "	Ditto	2 lbs ; 2 lbs			
24th "	Ditto	5 lbs, 2 lbs			Thunder.
25th to 28th "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			Lost one over 20lbs. while be- ing landed, and lost one about 15lbs. by hook drawing.
			Towi	Gold Spoon.	
29th "	Dilogra	<i>Nil</i>			
30th "	Ditto	7 lbs			
31st "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			Water dirty.
1st Sept.	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			
3rd "	Ditto	7 lbs			Also 10 small fish.
4th "	Ditto	$\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.			
5th "	Ditto	1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.			
6th "	Ditto	2 lbs.			
10th "	Foonch	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 2 & 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.			
11th "	Ditto	<i>Nil</i>			
13th "	Madhopur	5, 4 & 2 lbs.			
14th "	Ditto	4, 3, 2 & 1 lbs.			
15th "	Ditto	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.			
16th "	Mendola	4, 3, 2 & 1 lbs.			
17th "	Ditto	4, 4, 3, 1 & 1 lbs.			
18th "	Ditto	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb			
19th "	Tattapani	5, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.			
20th "	Ditto	11, 1, 1, 1, 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.			

Date.	Place.	Weight.	River.	How caught.	REMARKS.
1886.					
21st Sept.	Kotli	<i>Nil.</i>			
22nd "	Ditto	7¾, 2 & 1 lbs.			
23rd "	Ditto	25, 1 & 1 lbs.			
26th "	Nowshera	1½ lbs.			
27th "	Ditto	9½, 4½, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, ¾, ¾, ¾, ¾, & ¾ lbs.			
28th "	Ditto	5, 4, & 2½ lbs.			
29th "	Kurri	8½ lbs, 5, 4 & 1 lb.			
30th "	Ditto	15, 13, 2½ & 2 lbs.			
2nd Oct.	Dinani	3, 2 & 1½ lbs.			
3rd "	Ditto	4, 2, 1½ lbs.			
4th "	Ditto	4 & 3 lbs & 3 fish weighing 35 lbs.			
		Total weight of fish caught 318 lbs			

III.—*Notes on the River Muhl*, by WILLIAM MITCHELL, ESQ.

The Muhl River rises in Kashmir and flows through Poonch joining the Jhelum at Dhalkote, 20 miles below Kehala. It is 24 miles from Murree, 1st march, Thanda ; 2nd march, Dhalkote; Murree is 39 miles from Rawulpindi by tonga. The road from Murree to Thanda is rideable, but from Thanda to Dhalkote it is quite unrideable in most places, and may justly be described as a very bad road. There is no bungalow at present, but Rajah Moti Singh of Poonch has promised to build a bungalow for sportsmen, and do what he can to improve the road. Good camping-grounds close to the river, and supplies obtainable without much difficulty.

The best time to visit the Mahl is from 1st of May to end of June, and again as soon as the water clears after the rains. The Mahseer seem to be of two distinct kinds, one kind averaging from 1 to 5lbs., very plentiful. These are believed to be one and two years old fish, which have not begun to breed, and which have not so far run down the big rivers in the winter, as far as the fish which are going to breed do. The other kinds are breeding fish, running from 20 to 60lbs. These are to be

seen in enormous quantities at the mouth of the stream in the month of May, where a sort of lake is formed of perfectly clear water, by the rising of the Jhelum having caused a backwater.

The first mentioned fish take the spoon most greedily in May and June, and in the autumn take fly, phantom, and spoon very freely whenever the water is in order.

Hitherto the larger fish have been most cruelly used by the natives; "machans" were placed over every pool and rapid where fish were likely to show themselves, and a native sportsman was in each with a loaded gun ready to blaze at the fish the moment he showed. The spawning beds were the favourite places for the gunners. In addition to the gunners, every kind of fish trap that human ingenuity could devise was laid along the river; the consequence was that the larger fish were extremely shy, but a great improvement was noticed by Major Pike and Mr. Walker of the Suffolk Regiment when they visited the Mahl in June 1886, and there is great hope that with the protection Rajah Moti Singh of Poonch promises that the Mahl will become one of the finest rod-fishing streams in India, besides being a splendid spawning ground for Mahseer, for which it is especially suited.

The river is easily fished from the bank and by wading, except at the mouth where a boat would be a great advantage. The scenery is lovely; the heat in May and June is considerable during the day.

For the larger fish, natural bait and large spoons are the only baits I can recommend from my own experience.

It will be seen from the above that the Mahl is a very convenient river for a trip from Murree or the adjacent Gullies. There is an Anglers' book kept by a shikari named Pir Baksh in which a few anglers have recorded their takes, the best bag apparently being 232 fish in 8 days fishing by 2 rods in June 1886; best day, 88 fish from 1 to 4 lbs.

Forty-two pounds is the largest individual fish recorded.

Below is an extract of a letter received by the Honorary Secretary, from Captain H. R. Lovett, King's Royal Rifles, dated 18th May, 1887, with reference to a visit to the Mahl :—

"I have just returned from a 10-days' fishing trip to the Mahl River, and send you an account of what I did.

"The river was apparently in very good order, but the fish did not take well. There were quantities of big fish at the mouth, but the water was slack and rather dirty, and they would look at nothing. I caught a 10lb. fish a little higher up with a 'Chilwa;' about three miles up at the next camping-ground, there is a lovely pool with, I should think, at least 50 big fish in it; you could see them swimming round the pool in shoals. I managed to hook one of them, on a dead frog, on very light tackle, and after 2½ hours play gaffed him. He weighed 35lbs., and was very lightly hooked. I got other small fish, but very few, and at last they gave up taking, so I came away. The bait of all others for this river is frog. I tried everything else except 'atta.' The river is full of fish, and I found no difficulty about supplies."

*Further Notes on the River Mahl compiled from various sources.*

The road by Thanda is most laborious, particularly the 2nd march from Thanda to Dhalkote, which is a descent of 5,000 feet, and then up again certainly 2,000, down again to the river, and having crossed it, up again another 2,000 feet and down. It is quite unrideable, *i.e.*, this second march. Another and more convenient route, although longer, is as follows :—Go out by the *New* Kashmir road 15 miles to the mile-stone marked 12 (the miles being measured from Kohala and not Murree) to a place called Phugwari, where there is a bunnia's shop. As far as this you can gallop, or drive, and tongas will be running by this route in a short time. At Phugwari you turn off to the right, and make down to the right bank of the Jhelum



River to the village of Namb Ramah, below which is the Quaddar (or Kwadra) Ferry, the village of this name being in Kashmir territory on the opposite side. From Phugwari to Namb Ramah is about three miles, and you descend perhaps 3,000 feet. It *could* be ridden, but in two or three places you would have to dismount. Having arrived at Namb Ramah, you take the road running straight down the right bank of the Jhelum to Dhalcote Ferry, which is about 12 miles. This road is almost level the whole way, and is easily rideable, and in some places one could canter along for a good bit. In perhaps half-a-dozen places it is washed away for a few yards, at which it is necessary to dismount. It is, however, hoped that these places may be repaired, and application has been made by the Club to the District Authorities to do so. If this can be done, one could get from Namb Ramah to Dhalcote Ferry on a good pony in certainly two hours or under. With ponies laid out, or by driving the first march from Murree, this is certainly the easiest and best way to go by.

As to the Mahl itself, there is no doubt, from the experience of anglers who have recently visited it, but that at times a frog is the bait of all others for it.

In Chapter III detailed information about fishing with frog is given, and also descriptions of tackle suited for such fishing.

The bungalow promised by the Rajah of Poonch has been commenced (June 1887), and a letter was received from him only a few days back in reply to one from the Club, promising to push on the work as fast as possible. The site chosen is excellent, and there is no doubt, but that the Mahl has a great future before it, when the tonga will be running along the new Kashmir road, and perhaps even the contemplated railway along the bank of the Jhelum itself. The scenery is simply lovely, and the river is fishable for certainly 25 miles up from its junction with the Jhelum. A very nice trip would be to fish the Mahl up as far as possible, and then

strike across to the town of Poonch, which would be distant from 25 to 30 miles, and then fish down the Poonch, *viâ* Kotli to Tangrôt. From Murree to Tangrôt by this route would be about 15 marches. The time to do it would be from the 1st September to 15th October, and one could finish up with a week or ten days at Tangrôt in the best of the season. By taking the last leave from August 15th, this could be done admirably. As the first fortnight, *viz.*, from August 15th to September 1st, could be spent in travelling to Murree, making arrangements and sending one's kit on to Dhalcote beforehand, while one made a pleasant stay in Murree for a week or so, to recruit from the plains. The heat in the Mahl Valley, even in June, is not very excessive, or anything like so bad as in the plains.

*IV.—Notes on fishing near Campbellpur, by C. T. DOLBY, ESQ.*

1. *Place.*—About 10 miles from Campbellpur railway station, on the Hurroo River, long reaches of rapids, and heavier pools than on the Poonch. The best way to go, is to Campbellpur railway station. The distance of the fishing is about six miles to the right of the station. On the way to the fishing ground, you cross some small springs known as "Dhobie Ghât," as well as several others, where, as far as I can remember, some gold diggings in the bed of the stream are carried out by natives. The road or pathway leading on to the river bank is fair in some parts. I do not remember the name of the village opposite the bank from where I was fishing, but it can be noticed as being rather a larger one than the ordinary run of villages in the locality. There is no house accommodation, but there are good sites for tents directly on the banks and sheltered by trees. I was out at this place during the month of September and found the water quite clear. March and April ought to be good months. The fish are Mahseer, Rohu and Trout. Once at this place, in a couple of hours, I got a Mahseer weighing 8lbs., and several

smaller ones. I was told that fish up to 60 and 70 lbs. can be got at this place, and I am in favor of this information, as the junction of this river with the Indus is but a few miles off, and large fish must naturally inhabit these pools. I am certain that, if, in any way, netting could be prevented on this river, either by the assistance of the Tehsildar, or Lumbardars themselves, that it would afford better sport than the Poonch, and, moreover, the distance from the nearest railway station is nearer than Tangrôt. I have also fished from the junction of the Chiblat with this river to about two miles below the Trunk Road Bridge, but have had no luck, although last year Mr. McDermott and Mr. Crux caught a few on the 24th May (1886), the largest one being 8lbs.

The junction of this river with the Indus is known as Choor, and I think this name is noted on some of the maps of the Rawulpindi District.

I have not visited this place, but have heard of its being a good fishing ground. I hear that there is a dāk bungalow there, or some sort of resting-place for travellers on the way to Kohat; boats are, I believe, available at this place, but I am afraid that the River Indus is too rough for boating.

On the left of Campbellpur station, there are also some large pools, the distance being two or three miles. On one occasion I saw a splendid "Rohu" netted, which could not have been less than 15lbs. The river is wadeable here, and I fished from the bank with dough and "Chilwa," and found the fish taking. I used ordinary double casts and treble hooks, and took fish at about 4 P. M.

There is also good fishing on the Indus at the junction of the Loonda or Cabul River; the junction is facing directly opposite the dāk bungalow, the distance being 1½ miles.

On the 23rd March, 1883, at about 1 P. M., I took 4 "Salmon-Trout, or what are locally known as "Pooa," weighing 15, 12, 9 and 7 lbs., all taken with "Chilwa."

The difficulty I have experienced at this place is that it is hard to obtain small fish for bait, although at times shoals can be seen passing up-stream close to the banks, and they can be switched out by dozens with a small triangular net on a stick 3 feet long. To avoid disappointment, it would be as well to take a supply from Pindi, as caught in the Leh. I have observed that when a dash is made among them by large fish when going up-stream, they all disperse for a few minutes, and then come back to their places, and continue their march up-stream. When these fish are travelling up during the months of March and April, I am told that it is a sure sign that the large fish are following them. The first junction of this river with the Loonda is also a noted place for fishing, and is called "Koond;" this is above Khyrabad railway station and adjacent to the Trunk Road, and about three miles distance from that station. A friend of mine, Mr. Garstin, caught a Mahseer at this place weighing 36lbs.

When out fishing one afternoon, at the junction opposite the dāk bungalow at Attock, I noticed a gentleman attached to the Garrison of Fort Attock and a well-known angler, who took nine fish, the largest being about 30lbs. He was fishing between the junction and the triangular sand-bed; for convenience of crossing over, he had a small punt, which was always kept on the bank.

*V.—The following Notes regarding fishing at Dadupore and Tajuwala, North-West Provinces, furnished by H. S. DUNSFORD, ESQ., District Superintendent of Police, Rohtak.*

*April 28th.*—Arrived at Dadupore in the morning. Water slightly discoloured by melting snow from the hills, but quite fishable. In the evening got an 11lb. Mahseer in the Some. I found that on the 25th instant Mr. Day, Executive Engineer, had taken 12 Mahseer in the Some, weights as follows:—10 lbs., 11lbs., 10½lbs., 10lbs., 9lbs., 5½lbs., 5¼lbs., 3lbs., 4lbs., 3lbs., 5½lb., 10¼lbs., = 87¼lbs.

*April 29th.*—Struck a good fish, probably nearly 20lbs., which gave some capital runs, and when nearly exhausted, broke a stout treble hook *by compression* and got away.

*May 1st.*—Rode up to Tajuwala, 14 miles above Dadupore, fished in the head of the canal and in the river (Jumna) below the sluices. Water getting dirty, killed one small fish.

*May 2nd and 3rd.*—A thick red spate coming down, the result of storm in the hills. Fishing quite hopeless.

*May 4th.*—Tajuwala.—Snow water coming down. A blank day.

*May 5th.*—Back to Dadupore, fished at canal falls under the bridges, lost a fair fish by breaking of spoon mounts. Water rather dirty during the day.

*May 6th and 7th.*—Water variable, thick for a few hours in the day, clearing towards evening, and in fair order for a short time in the mornings. Blank days.

*May 8th.*—Water much the same as on preceding days. In the evening hooked something monstrous in the Some, which went straight down stream with an irresistible rush, taking out nearly 99 yards of line without a check. When I saw the line getting thin on the reel and apparently no prospect of a stoppage, I jumped down the bank with the intention of running along the side, and in jumping the handle of the reel checked against my sleeve for a moment, and my line came back minus the wire trace.

*May 9th.*—Water in fair order, killed a 14½lbs., Mahseer in the morning, which gave excellent sport; a 4-pounder in the evening, and a Trout, 1lb. in weight, all three on the smallest sized Devon Minnow, about 1½ inch long.

*May 10th.*—Blank.

*May 11th.*—Two fish, 12lbs., and 8lbs., during the evening in the Some on natural bait.

*May 12th.*—Lost a fair fish by breakage of treble mount.

*May 13th and 14th.*—Water clear but very low in the Some, where I foolishly wasted my time. If I had tried the canal falls on these days, I should probably have done well.

*May 15th.*—Rode to Tajuwala.

*May 16th.*—Fished in canal head and river sluices, lost a fair fish in canal by breakage of wire trace. Stormy all day, and water rapidly fouling towards evening.

*May 17th and 18th.*—Water very dirty and fishing hopeless.

*May 19th.*—Back to Dadupore. Water still dirty, tried natural bait, but without success.

*May 20th.*—Water clear. Two small Mahseer in the morning, 6½ lbs. and 5 lbs.

*May 21st.*—Water fairly clear, but a windy day, and Mahseer not taking. Took 50 *buchwas* on a Mahseer fly.

*May 22nd.*—Two Mahseer in the morning, 8½ lbs. and 6 lbs. Lost another by breakage of mounts.

*May 23rd.*—Ran three fish on natural bait, all of which got off. A promising morning up to 7-30 A. M., when the snow water came down rapidly.

*May 24th.*—Abominable luck. Having run out of mounts, I manufactured some of twisted wire which stood a 12 lbs. pull when testing, but broke like thread with fish. A capital afternoon for fishing. Ran seven fish and lost them all by breaking of wire either in mounts or traces.

*May 25th.*—Took a 14-pounder in the Some in the afternoon, which gave splendid sport. It took me half an hour to land this very game fish.

*May 26th to 29th.*—Snow water coming down steadily, only tried fishing once during these four days for an hour.

*May 30th.*—Water clearing, but a strong cool wind blowing, and fish not on the take.

*May 31st.*—Killed a 20-pounder in the canal in the morning. This fish sulked like a Goonch (for which I took him) at first,

and was eventually landed with almost no play, though in excellent condition. He was evidently tired out by staying for some time at the head of the rapid before he took me. A 14½-pounder in the evening in the Some which gave the best play of any fish this season.

After this I remained at Dadupore till the 7th June, but took no more Mahseer.

Result of this trip = 14 Mahseer, weighing 126¼ lbs., average weight 9 lbs. The take has been numerically small, and the fish have not been heavy, but the merits of Dadupore and Tajuwala as fishing places are undoubtedly great in spite of this. Dadupore is very accessible, being 12 miles only from the railway station of Jagadhri, which is within a short railway journey of Umballa or Meerut. Tajuwala is 14 miles above Dadupore, and the head of the Western Jumna Canal. My visit was very late in the season, and the two Canal Engineer Officers, resident at Dadupore, Messrs. Phelan and Day, had excellent sport during the month of March and the early part of April.

The artificial baits, which appear to be most taking here, are the Silver Devon Minnow, in sizes from 1½ inch to 4 inches, and silverspoons from 1½ inch to 3 inches. The spoons should be invariably used with flying mounts instead of the old head and tail trebles; the difference in spinning is something wonderful. Luscombe manufactures most exquisite flying mounts consisting of an eyed head treble to fix on to split ring to flying trebles. These are all three very small and mounted on double gut. The hooks, although so small, will hold anything, but one grave defect of the mounts is the rapid fraying which they undergo; one mount can rarely be trusted to take more than two fish, and sometimes not even that. This defect is common to the Devon Minnow mounts also, and until it is remedied they cannot be considered perfect, although for spinning easily and accurately with no "wobble"

they leave nothing to be desired. One of Luscombe's hog-backed spoons with these mounts, a small swivel connecting split ring and trace, and a double swivel between the upper end of the race and the line, commences spinning most perfectly directly it touches the water, and the slightest draw is sufficient to work it even in standing water. These mounts should be specially ordered, or larger hooks with unnecessary tinsel about them will probably be supplied. In ordering from Luscombe a considerable margin in respect of time should be allowed, as I found the supply occasionally delayed. This delay occasioned my bad fortune on the day when I ran seven fish and lost them all, on mounts roughly made on wire.

Messrs. Phelan, Day, and myself found our wire mounts most unreliable. They were made of English wire, twisted on gut twisters and tempered after twisting over a kerosine lamp. A trace made in this way of double wire would stand the test of a direct pull of *twenty pounds*, which should have been enough to hold the biggest Mahseer in the river, yet it would constantly break in the most inexplicable manner with almost no strain on it. This could only be attributable to kinks caused by throwing. Mr. Phelan tried the experiment of twisting two double wire traces together, making a trace four wires in thickness. These were practically unbreakable by direct strain, and held some good fish, but even these broke without sufficient reason. The unreliable nature of these traces is a great drawback, as if they fulfilled the promise of strength indicated by testing before use, the trace of double wire should be sufficient for all ordinary purposes, and is more nearly invisible in any sort of water than anything yet invented. Any information regarding a really reliable trace, fine enough for clear water, would, I am sure, be a great boon to all fishermen. In conclusion a word about buckle swivels, they are wonderfully handy and useful for rapid and easy changing of traces, &c., but are not to be



trusted. On two occasions my traces became unbuckled and were lost when spinning, and one or two instances of a similar misfortune with other fishermen came to my notice during the time I was fishing at Dadupore.

*VI.—Notes on Tangrôt and part of River Poonch, by G. H. LACY, ESQ.*

Tangrôt is 24 miles from Jhelum and 16 miles from Dina, the nearest railway station. The road from Jhelum as far as Shekôpur, about half way, and where there is a bungalow, is driveable. From Shekopur to Tangrôt, the road is not fit for wheeled traffic. From Jhelum of course, ponies, camels, etc., are easily procurable, and from Dina, coolies and ponies can be obtained without trouble on notice being given to the Thanadar or Station Master. The return journey from Tangrôt is done generally by boat, which takes about six hours from Tangrôt to Jhelum. The boats are of two sizes, for which the rates are Rs 10 and 14, respectively, for the journey. The larger size of boat will, however, hold a pony, if necessary, and full kit and servants. These rates are exorbitant, and the matter has often, I believe, been represented by sportsmen to the district authorities, but without avail. The boatmen at Jhelum are, however, only too glad to bring a boat up to Tangrôt to take the traveller away for Rs 7, or in slack times even less.

At Tangrôt, there is a substantial dâk bungalow, perhaps one of the best furnished and established in India, having every requirement and a good khansama. There are four suites of rooms. There is room for at least half-a-dozen camps below the bungalow on the Jhelum side, and on the opposite side, in Kashmir territory, for three or four. Provisions are easily procurable, such as eggs, milk, butter, fowls, etc. At Mirpoor, some six miles distant, are two or three mistries who can mend reels, make rough ferrules, etc., etc. There are at present seven small boats for fishing, the

rate being one rupee a day for the same, and usually about six annas in addition are given to a head boatman or shikari, which is not included in the nerrick, and could well be discontinued. There are several men at Tangrôt, thoroughly acquainted and able to give the angler all assistance, the best being Fukroo, Hosseina and Nihaloo. Emamdin is perhaps the best boatman. A small casting net is a useful thing to take to Tangrôt in order to get bait with.

With reference to spoons, etc., I consider for the smaller fish, and for use in the Poonch which joins the Jhelum at Tangrôt, that a silver and brass, or silver and gold spoon from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length to be the best, and for the larger fish a spoon of similar description from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches in length.

For the large fish 200 yards of line is recommended, as occasionally a fish will run it all out. Last year I found 210 yards insufficient, it all being taken out in the first rush of a large fish, and coming to the end the trace smashed. Spinning a "Chilwa," particularly in the junction, is a very deadly method of fishing, and in the spring months very large fish are sometimes taken on a live or dead bait, say of four or six ounces in weight. For the first march up the Poonch, as far as Chowmook, there are many excellent runs and pools. Jungoo pool, only a quarter of a mile from Tangrôt, holds enormous fish, but they are very wary and seldom take a bait. Higher up at the Punchakkies, numbers of small fish may be taken with a small spoon; both the Arno pools (Upper and Lower) hold big fish, but of late years I think few of any size have been taken in them. At Chak, six miles from Tangrôt, is a very nice camping-ground and excellent fishing, as also in several runs between this and Chowmook, where there is a kind of bungalow or rest-house called the "barra durrie." At Tangrôt, March, April, and October are the best months, and the fish take more freely in the spring than in the autumn.

One march up the Jhelum is a place called Kasi, where large fish have been taken, and is perhaps worth a visit if Tangrôt is much crowded.

The following is a diary of a fishing trip to Tangrôt last October (1886) which may give an idea of the sport obtainable there. The letters, in the second column, show the places where the fish were caught, as shown on the Tangrôt map published herewith, taken from the map in the Tangrôt "Angler's Book" and which was executed by Captain W. T. Fairbrother :—

Date.	Place.	Time.	Weight.	How caught.	REMARKS.
13-9-86	L.	A. M.	8 lbs.	On Chilwa	Water getting clear ; on 16th lost a heavy fish at L on live bait, not sufficiently hooked.
Do.	L.	A. M.	1 "		
14-9-86	H.	A. M.	1½ lbs.		
15-9-86	G.	A. M.	5½ "		
16-9-86	L.	P. M.	2½ "		
Do.	L.	P. M.	1½ "	All on ¾ inch gold spoon.	Water getting clear ; on 16th lost a heavy fish at L on live bait, not sufficiently hooked.
17-9-86	L.	A. M.	7, 5, 3¾, 3, 2 lbs. 2 and 1 lbs.		
18-9-86	L.	A. M.	4¼, 4, 3, 2¼, and 1½ lbs.		
19-9-86	Chak	A. M.	2½ & 1 lb.		
Do.	Do.	P. M.	4 & 1¾ lbs.		
20-9-86	Chak	A. M.	3½ & 1½ lbs.	All on ¾ inch gold spoon.	Water very clear. Total weight on 21st, 38¾ lbs.
21-9-86	Between A and E	A. M.	10, 5¼, 4, 4 lbs.		
		P. M.	3¼, 3½, 2, 2, 1¾, 1½, 1, 1 & ½ lb.		
22-9-86	K.	A. M.	2 lbs.		
Do.	H.	A. M.	2½ lbs.		
23-9-86	E.	P. M.	3¼, 2¼, 1¼, 1½, 1, 1, & 1 lb	All on one inch brass and silver spoon.	On September 25th, I hooked a heavy fish at M, in the Jhelum at about 5 P.M. He took out 160 yards of line straight off the reel, when the line (210 yards) came to an end before I could get on shore, and the wire trace smashed. I saw this fish as he jumped out of the water and imagined him to have been at least 80 lbs., if not larger !
24-9-86	E.	P. M.	2¼, 1½, ½ & ½ lb.		
25-9-86	K.	A. M.	9, 8¼, 6, 5½, 5 & 3 lbs.		

Date.	Place.	Time.	Weight.	How caught.	REMARKS.
26-9-87	N.	A. M.	44 lbs.	4 inch silver and brass spoon	A female fish, length 4' 2"; Girth 2' 2", killed in 1 hour.
Do.	L.	A. M. & P. M.	10, 5, 4 & 2½ lbs.	{ On 1 inch silver and brass spoon.	Windy and dusty.
27-9-86	K.	A. M.	8 lbs.		
Do.	L.	A. M.	5¾, 1¼ & ¾ lbs.		
28-9-86	L.	A. M.	5½ lbs.		From September 29th to October 4th, both Ihelum and Poonch were dirty, and fishing impracticable.
5-10-86	N.	A. M.	50 lbs.	On 4 inch silver and brass spoon.	A female fish, length 4' 3", girth 2' 3", killed in three quarters of an hour.
6-10-86	N.	A. M.	.....	.....	Lost a heavy fish by line fouling.
7-10-86 to 13-10-86.	.....	...	.....	.....	A very heavy flood came down, the Poonch rising 10 or 12 feet. Fishing with spoon useless. Several anglers had to go away disappointed.
14-10-86	Shekopur	P. M.	18, 18, 16, 11 & 3 lbs.	On "atta" colored red.	Water at Shekopur too dirty for spoon. Four of these fish were "Rohu," which gave very fair play, the tackle being fine. The "Rohu" is very good eating and appears to be a ravenous fish as I lost several slightly hooked.
	Tangrôt				
16-10-86	K.	A. M.	5 & 4 lbs.	{ On ¾ inch gold spoon	
Do.	Do.	P. M.	2 & 1 "		
17-10-86	L.	A. M.	6 & 5 lbs.	{ On 1 inch silver and brass spoon.	
Do.	L.	P. M.	2 & 2 "		
18-10-86	M.	A. M.	13 lbs.	{ On 3½ inch silver and brass spoon.	
Do.	M.	P. M.	12 "		
Do.	L.	A. M.	8 & 7 lbs.	{ On 1 inch silver and brass spoon.	Also lost a fish which must have been a heavy one, by triangle being crunched up.
Do.	M.	P. M.	6 lbs.		
19-10-86	M.	A. M.	13 "		
21-10-86	M.	A. M.	10 lbs.		
Do.	M.	A. M.	61 "		

This fish, the biggest on record in the Tangrôt Anglers' book up to the present, was hooked about 9-30 A.M. at "M." He rushed all my line out 140 yards, just as I landed from my boat and was pulling dead on the knot. I ran on, but fell in the mud, when my boatman Rokundin, to whom great praise is due, seized up the rod, and rushed into the water, "which now made for the big rapid" marked "O." Most fortunately Deputy Surgeon-General Collis' boat was following mine, and getting into it we followed the fish down the rapid otherwise he must have inevitably been lost, and most probably all the line and trace. We went down the rapid at a frightful rate, and at one time must, I believe, have passed the fish, the 140 yards of line being loose in the river, but providentially it caught in no rocks, and I found the fish on when we landed below. Two or three times he had taken all the line out, and was pulling dead on the knot, but by miracle nothing broke. The fish took to sulking, but for fully  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 hours, I hung on to him, but could not move him. At last at about 2 P.M., he gave in, and I landed him at "P"—a female fish 4' 7" in length and 2' 6" in girth, weight 61 lbs. Caught on a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  silver and brass spoon and treble gut trace.

As I believe there is no precedent at Tangrôt of any fish, and certainly none so large rushing across and down the "big rapid," and being followed and finally landed below. I have taken the trouble to enter this at considerable length. The fish was hooked right under the gills, which accounted for his extraordinary vigour and rushes. In conclusion, I may state that I am greatly indebted to Deputy Surgeon-General Collis in giving up his morning fishing and following my fish in his boat with me down the rapid, an act not unattended with a certain amount of risk. This gentleman can vouch for the correctness of the above details and and weights and measurements.

"I can fully verify the above, as I was present at the time, and the facts stated by Lieutenant Lacy are perfectly correct."

(Sd.) W. COLLIS, *Deputy Surgeon-General.*

On the 23rd of October I got a  $19\frac{1}{2}$  lb. fish at N, when I was obliged to come away. My total bag being as under, *viz.*,  $551\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

The number of days on which I actually fished was 28, making an average of  $19\frac{2}{3}$  lbs. per diem. The number of days on which the river was unfishable on account of flood during my stay was 13.

A Map of Tangrôt is herewith given.

*VII.—Fishing at Shekopur, River Jhelum, by*

G. H. LACY, ESQ.

Shekopur is five miles from the Dina Railway Station, and 13 from Jhelum, and is the first march to Tangrôt. The roads both from Jhelum and Dina are very good. There is a bungalow about a mile from the fishing. No khansama, but furniture and a certain amount of crockery. Tents can be pitched close to the fishing grounds, but there are no very good sites. October and early part of November are good months. The fish, Mahseer, run up to 35 lbs. weight, but generally are caught from 5 to 15 lbs. "Rohu" run up to 18 lbs., and a fish called "Luss" up to 5 lbs. The place for fishing is at some "atta" mills, or "panchakkies," where there is a good run. A boat is almost necessary to fish it successfully, and should be anchored at the head of the run, and the spoon allowed to run down the rapid; casts being made from time to time across to the further side of the river which is some 20 or 25 yards broad. A spoon  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches silver and brass is recommended.

The water should be clear and the best times in the day are from 9 to 11 A. M., and from 3 to 4 P. M. The most successful day I ever had here was between 9 A. M. and 3 P. M., during the heat of the day, my bag being  $90\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. weight of

fish. This was on October 8th, 1883. There is also a swim just in front of the bungalow where fish will occasionally take "atta," but it is uncertain work at the best of times.

*VIII.—Notes on fishing in the Sooswa, Arsun and Giri Rivers, Dehra Dun, by SURGEON-MAJOR MACLAREN, M. D.*

Fishing in Dehra Dun, North-West Provinces, 40 miles from Saharunpore by dāk gharry, thence by local dāk. The Sooswa joins the Ganges, the Arsun and Giri, join the Jumna. They are distant about 25 miles from Dehra. There is no house accommodation, but any amount of room for tents. All supplies must be taken from Dehra. The best time of the year to visit the water is March, April, October, and November. The fish are Mahseer, in the Sooswa and Arsun up to 15 lbs., but at the junctions up to 50 lbs. The fishing is by wading in the small streams by boat or "Surnai" at the junctions. The "Surnai" men go to their homes by 15th April, returning by October. The fish take a large gold spoon, or a four-inch phantom. The tributaries are best fished with a small gold spoon, a Scotch Salmon fly. At the junctions, the best time to fish is at sunrise and sunset, but in the tributaries up till 10 A.M. The fish never take well when the moon is full, unless after a spate when the water is clearing. At the junctions, natural bait is preferable to phantom. A small gold spoon is best about 10 A.M. in the tributaries. The Giri is in the Maharajah of Sirmoor's territory, and it would be well to ask permission (always granted if polite requests be made), before proceeding, otherwise obstacles may be thrown directly in the way. There is a very good stream for the fly spoon in the beginning of April a few miles from its mouth.

*IX.—Notes regarding fishing in Assam, by F. PEACOCK, ESQ.*

Fishing in Assam, Garo Hills, 36 miles from Mymensingh Railway Station to the North. River Sarasati, near a place called Durgalipur, the best fishing to be had about 22 miles

from Durgalipur, between two villages, Ryuk and Seejoo, and about two miles beyond the latter place. The water is well known in the neighbourhood. The best way to reach the water is by rail from Calcutta to Goalundo,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours; thence by steamer to Naraingunj,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hours, thence by rail to Mymensingh, 7 hours. From Mymensingh to Durgalipur is a road good for driving part of the way and for riding the whole way. The place was visited in February with good results. In 1877, 48 fish weighing 877 lbs., or over an average of 19 lbs. per fish, were killed by 2 rods in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days, all Mahseer. The best way to fish is with a spoon, from boat moving. On hooking a fish it is best to land and play him from the shore."

*X.—Fishing near Jhansi and Gwalior, Central India, by*  
G. H. LACY, Esq.

Burwa-Sagur tank near Jhansi, 13 miles out. Good road. Excellent dāk bungalow and good sites for tents. Visited with success in March. Fish are of all sorts, "Rohu," "Tengra," etc., up to 10 lbs. Best way to fish with worm or "atta" from the bund. Boats called "dug-outs" are procurable. Morning and evening best time. A landing net is very useful. Many kinds of small fish up to a pound or two are taken. In the Pahcoj river about five miles down the road from Jhansi to Sipri, bags of Indian Trout can sometimes be made, as also the Barbery nullah. In the Betwa there is excellent Mahseer fishing, and there are several places near Oorcha that are good, and also near where the Lalitpur road crosses the river near Bubeena. In the Scinde river near Sipri there is a fair number of Mahseer, and also Trout; and great numbers of Murrel. Also in the Parbatti river, three marches from Gwalior, and half way between this place and Sipri, Mahseer fishing may be had, and near Gwalior itself; fishing may be had in the River Sark between Nurabad and Kōolet, at which latter place there are great numbers



of tame fish preserved by the Maharajah. At Nurabad itself, excellent bottom fishing is to be had, and the fish also take a fly; and many kinds of miscellaneous fish can be taken. Nurabad is 14 miles from Gwalior city, along the Agra road, and there is a good bungalow furnished. The fishing is chiefly near the old bridge over the Sark, which is a few hundred yards north of the bungalow. Under the arches of this bridge are a lot of fish and they take a worm at times very freely, as also a fly, no matter of what description.

*XI.—Notes on fishing at Narora, North-West Provinces, by  
CAPTAIN MAYCOCK, Army Pay Department.*

*Place.*—Narora, head of Lower Ganges Canal, small village, four miles from Rajghat Railway Station on the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway. Bungalows of Executive Engineer and staff. Permission to occupy the inspection bungalow can be obtained from the Executive Engineer in charge, Railway Station, connected with Narora by a tramway. Trollies to be obtained by asking the Executive Engineer. No supplies obtainable except ordinary village ones, such as fowls, milk, etc., ample room for tents all round, nearest large town is Allighur, junction of East Indian Railway, and Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway. The fishing places are within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the bungalow. Fishing is in River Ganges. Best places in a large pool, below sluices of dam and below the weir. The sluices are only open when river is high; closed at other times. Open beginning of May to end of rains. When open, very large Goonch are to be caught. All the large fish of accompanying bag (given in detail farther on) were caught in the pool, (almost still water), and with sluices closed. The Trout and "Buchwa" on the other side of river, below the weir, over which a good fall of water was running,—water moderately clear. Best times seems from February to May, but not certain. Mahseer are often seen, but won't take anything.

Only two have been caught with the rod for years, the last 3rd April, 1887, with spoon,—in still water and sandy bottom, weight 25 lbs. Other fish Trout, "Buchwa," "Checla," "Rahu," and a large variety of "freshwater sharks." The best bait seems to be silver spoons  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches. Live bait on Parson's tackle, with treble instead of single hook, and spinning dead bait for the "sharks." Small half and one inch silver spoon flies for "Buchwa" and Trout.

We did not try flies, phantom Minnows or other artificial baits.

We always mount our spoons with flying trebles, and on a 2-inch spoon, the end treble is from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the end of the spoon. This arrangement takes numbers of fish that come short. We make up our own mounts, and find that by far the best plan is to tie the hooks on to two or three strands of gut, not twisted or plaited. We never, or very seldom break our mounts even with the sharp teeth of the "sharks." A Mahseer could never cut them.

We make up our spinning traces from Salmon gut obtained from Walsh, Lovett & Co., of Calcutta,\* Agents for Alcock & Co. His quality is first class, and an order is usually sent by return post if the articles are in stock.

Our plan is to tie two lengths, side by side, to two more lengths side by side, by "fishermen's knots." If drawn together till they jam, they never slip. Of course the gut is very well soaked first. We have two German silver swivels, one in the centre and the other at the end, to attach to the split ring of the spoon. These are fixtures knotted on to the gut trace. The swivels are seven-eighths of an inch long. I have never yet broken one of Walsh Lovett's German silver swivels or split rings in a fish. To make the swivels work and to prevent kinking, we have a very simple but

\* *N. B.*—The firm of Walsh, Lovett & Co., mentioned by Captain Maycock, have lately transferred their business to Walter, Locke & Co., of Calcutta, who carry on the fishing tackle business just the same.

efficient plan, *viz.*, a small barrel lead with a wire loop at the end.

Pass a bight of the gut trace above the centre swivel (well wetted) through the wire loop, and pass the loop of the bight over the other end of the lead. Draw the gut tight. The lead then hangs straight below the spinning trace.

The only objection to it is, that it does not look neat; but this is a small matter when it prevents kinking, which it does most successfully. Lastly, we use 14 feet double-handed Trout rods, but with plenty of line (about 100 yards of No. 3 Standard Waterproof American).

The 41-pounder ("Paransi") was killed on one of the above rods in about 30 minutes. Fishing with a light rod, such as the above, is no labour, as I should think fishing with an 18-foot Salmon rod and 200 yards of line must be.

A sketch of Captain Maycock's method of mounting spoons and attaching lead to prevent kinking will be found among the plates at end of Book on Plate No 7.

Diary of a bag made at Narora, North-Western Provinces, head of lower Ganges Canal, by two rods in April 1887.

On the 9th and 10th April (moon nearly full and no wind to speak of.)—

26 "Gwalli" or "Laki"	...	Weight 154	lbs.
8 "Tengra"	...	" 55	"
2 "Paransi"	...	" 61	"
1 "Murrel"	...	" 7½	"
2 "Mohi"	...	" 17½	"
2 "Rahu"	...	" 1½	"
28 "Buchwa"	...	" 13¾	"
2 "Trout"	...	" 1¾	"
Total 71 fish		Weighing 312	lbs. in two days.

The heaviest "Gwalli" was 11 lbs.; heaviest "Tengra," 14 lbs.; heaviest "Paransi," 41½ lbs.

All these fish were caught on two-inch silver spoons on flying mounts, double gut casts, 14 feet double-handed Trout

rods, including the 41½-pounder which was weighed several hours after capture.

On the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of April, the following were caught :—

2 "Gwalli"	...	...	...	Weight 10 lbs.
9 "Tengra"	...	...	...	" 28½ "
1 "Rahu"	...	...	...	" 2 "
95 "Buchwa"	...	...	...	" 33½ "
46 "Trout"	...	...	...	" 21 "
2 "Goonch"	...	...	...	" 12 "
Total 155 fish				Weighing 107 lbs.

No moon, strong hot winds. The "Gwalli," "Tengra" and "Goonch," were caught with live-bait, and they would not look at a spoon. "Buchwa" and "Trout" all caught with one-inch flying silver spoon. The names given are local native names. The "Gwalli" is the same as H. S. Thomas' "Wallago Attu," the "Goonch" is "Bagarius Yarrellei," and the "Gwalli" is also called very generally "Mullee."

*XII.—Fishing at Raiwala, near Saharunpur and Hurdwar, by*  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. L. PRENDERGAST.

The fishing place is Raiwala on the Ganges six miles above Hurdwar. It is a night's dāk from Roorkee, the nearest railway station.

The rivers are the Ganges and the Song and Suswa, which fall into the Ganges a short distance from Raiwala. The best way to reach the spot would be by train to Roorkee and thence by doolie. There is a camping-ground on the right bank. The best months are March, April, October and November. The fish in the Ganges run to any size, and in the Song and Suswa up to 5 or 6lbs. These are Mahseer, there are also what are called Trout in India. Spoon is the best bait, but have known them caught up to 20lbs. with fly. The fishing on the Ganges is usually done from "Surnais," *i.e.*, a charpoy on mussucks. You can fish as far as Hurdwar in this way. In the smaller rivers by wading or from the bank.

The strongest tackle is generally used in the Ganges as you may get fixed in a big one at any moment, and the water is heavy. A wire trace and a 2½ or 3-inch spoon should do, but I have seen very large spoons and phantoms used. This is a matter of taste as you can follow the fish anywhere on "Surnais." The "Surnai" men are generally procurable in the season and they are well up to their work.

*XIII.—Fishing on Rivers Leh, Sohan, Korung and Chiblat, near Rawulpindi, by G. H. LACY, ESQ.*

The first three rivers are all within five miles of Pindi at their nearest points, and the fishing grounds within eight miles.

1. *The Leh*.—A tributary of the Sohan, which it joins near the Grand Trunk Road Bridge. The portion from this junction to where the road from Pindi to Khana crosses it, is looked after by the Fishing Club. The nearest point on the Leh and where the best fishing is, is within two miles of Cantonments. This is close to the village of Topee, which is situated on an eminence on the right bank of the river. A road runs straight from the jail to this place, along the outskirts of the Park. There are several big pools at this part of the river which hold large fish, comparatively speaking, for so small a river. The convenience of the Leh is, that being so close to Cantonments, it can be reached by either riding or driving in 20 minutes or less. The fish are somewhat uncertain on the Leh. At times, they take a spoon very freely and at others, nothing can tempt them. They will take "atta" very well also ; and good bags are often made with this. The angler must take great care on hooking a fish that he does not cut his trace among the sunken ridges of rock with which the river abounds. I have known no less than 10 fish lost in one evening in this manner, when the angler having exhausted his stock of traces, and likewise his temper, went home without a single fish. The biggest fish I

have heard of taken on the Leh up to the present was just 10 lbs., and there are doubtless fish of 15 lbs. or more in the larger pools. "Scott's No. 2" spoon is the best for the Leh when spoon fishing, but I have known the fish refuse this kind of spoon and take a hog-backed brass spoon of a broader make.

I have never tried fly in the Leh, but the stream seems suited to its use, and bags would, doubtless, be made by a skilful fly-fisher. The best places for fishing are between A and C on the map of the river issued by the Fishing Club.

2. *The Sohan.*—This river flows within five miles of Pindi. The nearest point is the bridge (Grand Trunk Road). The portion of the river from the junction of the Korung, about a mile above the road-bridge to the village of Chupper, eight miles below is supervised by the Club. The upper portion of the river, as also some of the Leh, runs through the land belonging to Mir Baksh,\* a native gentleman and Lambardar of Kotha village on the right bank of the river, and who does his utmost to preserve those portions of the river adjoining his land. The Sohan can either be reached by driving or riding to the road bridge, or by riding to Moorga village by a path which leads out behind the fort. A small spoon (Scott's No. 2) silver and gold is the best for the Sohan. In the hot weather, the fish will take a "Chilwa" very well, and sometimes "atta."

It is very hard to say what are the best months for this river. The fish seem to take whenever the water is fairly clear, except in the very cold weather,—perhaps for choice, March and April, September and October, are the best months, but the fish will often take really well in June and July if the water is not too much coloured by the rains. The best bag in one day I have heard of on the Sohan was 21 fish from 1 to 8 lbs. by two rods.

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\* Since deceased.

It is hard to say which are the best places. The first Punchakkies and just above the railway bridge, the General's Pool and P and Q (*vide* Map of Sohan issued by the North Punjab Fishing Club), and the "Boundary Pool" are perhaps for choice the best places. There is no doubt but that in the "Boundary Pool" there are very heavy fish, certainly up to 20 lbs. or more. A boat would be of great use on this pool, and one or two other portions of the river.

There is excellent fishing to be had in the Sohan at Chirah, where the river emerges from the hills. By following the road to Khanna and turning off to the right just where the road branches off to Karor, will bring the angler to the best pools. This is about 18 miles from Pindi.

3. *The River Korung or Rawul*.—This river, a tributary of the Sohan, which it joins about a mile above the Grand Trunk Road Bridge, is looked after by the Fishing Club from where the Kanna road crosses it (by a ford) to its junction with the Sohan about 10 miles altogether. Also the pool about 200 yards to the right of the Murree road is protected by the Lambardar of Rawul village. There are two ways of reaching the Rawul from Pindi: (1.) Either by riding or driving along the Khana road and striking off just before the race course to the river, or by riding or driving to Topee village on the Leh River, and walking across the hills to the Korung about a mile distant. There are some very large and deep pools on the Korung. The first pool called the "Big Pool," near Pesahowa and Karal, holds very large fish. All down the river are a succession of fine pools, it being hard to say which places are best. At about three miles below Khanna, the river contracts to about 20 feet in width and flows between two high precipices, somewhat like the Marble Rocks near Jubbulpore on a small scale, this place is called the "Gorge" on the Club Map of the Korung, and the water here is very deep and must doubtless hold good fish.

Very good bags have, from time to time, been made in the Korung, the biggest fish that I have heard of was 18 lbs. The following bag made in 1885 by Captain Maxwell, Highland Light Infantry, will give an idea of what good fishing can at times be obtained in it :—" March 23rd, 1885, two fish of 11 lbs. and 4 lbs.; on the 25th, 1 of 3 lbs. These three fish taken on a Scott's No. 2 spoon. On March 26th, 21 fish of 32 lbs. on small grilse fly black; April 9th, 1 of 8 lbs. on live bait; on April 10th, four fish 8 lbs. 4½ lbs., 3½ lbs. and 1¼ lbs, on Scott's No. 2 spoon; on the 11th, a 3-pounder on Scott's No. 2 spoon; on the 12th, 12 fish of 17 lbs; on small grilse fly black; on the 13th, 3 fish of 6½, 5 and 4 lbs; on the 14th, one of 4 lbs.; on the 15th, 3 fish of 6, 4, and 3 lbs; on the 16th, eleven fish of 26 lbs.; on the 17th, 2 fish of 5½ and 3½ lbs., all on Scott's No. 2 spoon. Water very thick never cleared."

From the above it will seen that the fish in the Korung take the fly greedily. I have also heard of other fish being taken with fly, the biggest 6 lbs.

It is to be feared that the new waterworks near Rawul will, to a certain extent, draw off the water and lower the river so that the fishing will greatly deteriorate, but this remains to be seen, in the course of the next year or two.

4. *The Chiblat*.—This river, which rises near Janiki Sung and joins the Hurroo about four miles from Hussun Abdal, is one of the prettiest little rivers imaginable. The last six miles before it joins the Hurroo are supervised by the Club. Hussun Abdal Railway Station is only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the river. It is 28 miles from Rawulpindi. The river is a succession of runs, and in a few places nice pools which hold fair sized fish.

There is an excellent dâk bungalow at Hussun Abdal and good camping-grounds, and the trains run conveniently for a day's fishing from Pindi. The Grand Trunk Road and



Railway both cross the river about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the railway station. Just below the road bridge is a high bank and deep pool which is an excellent place and holds good fish. In March last I got one of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. at this place, and there are doubtless larger. The fishing seems to be much the same all up the river, and when on the feed the fish often take really well. About 100 lbs. weight of fish were taken in three days last September by Colonel Kinsman, R.A., late President of the Club, including a couple of fish turning 8 lbs. and over 100 fish, from 1 to 5 lbs., were taken by an angler lately in a 10-days' trip to this river. Scott's No. 2 spoon seems to be all that is required. I have not done anything with live bait or fly on this river.

The best seasons are, perhaps, April, May, September and October. Certain native gentlemen, *vis.*, Sirdars Secunder Khan and Mahomed Khan of Wah and Rais Munir Khan of Jelloh, who are Honorary Members of the Club, do all in their power to prevent netting and poaching in this river, which flows for some distance through their lands, and are moreover always most courteous and obliging to anglers and others visiting Hussun Abdal for the purpose of sport.

It is always advisable to take a gun with one when fishing this river, as a couple of duck or three or four couples of snipe can often be picked up along the rushy banks of the Chiblat, and on the Sohan and Korung, a duck or two, with, perhaps a couple of "sisi" may be bagged. Since writing this, the record of several good bags has come to hand, notably that of H. Trevor, Esq., 15th Sikhs, his biggest fish being 19 lbs. caught just below the road bridge.

*XIV.—Fishing near Jubbulpore, Central Provinces, in the  
Nerbudda River, by G. H. LACY, Esq.*

The fishing is from 6 to 12 miles from Jubbulpore in the Nerbudda River. The best ways to reach the water are as follows :—(1) To Bhera Ghât (Marble Rocks), 11 miles, by rid-

ing or driving. (2) To Lumheta Ghât,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles, by riding ; can drive, but with difficulty. At Bhera Ghât, there is a dâk bungalow and plenty of room for tents. At Lumheta Ghât, there are several very good and pretty places for camping. (3) By driving or riding to Goaree Ghât, six miles along the Nagpore road (4) out to a Ghât, name not known, by following a path which leads out behind the European Infantry Rifle Range—distance  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The fish are Mahseer and average from 1 to 10 lbs. There is only one way that is really successful of fishing the Nerbudda, and that is by means of parched gram, or "chunna ;" two or three grains of which are threadled on a hook and used something after the manner of a fly. It is necessary to have the place intended to be fished, ground-baited with this "chunna" for a couple of days beforehand. A very fine running line, 60 or 80 yards, a light single-handed fly-rod, a fine gut cast and a single hook, about the same size as those used for perch fishing at home, are required. The "chunna" has to be prepared beforehand and each grain has to be bored through, for which purpose a three-sided needle is best. The finest and largest grains should be picked out for baiting. Two of these are slipped on over the loop of the length of gut to which the hook is attached, and they slip down the hook until caught by the bend, one grain resting on top of the other. Two grains or three may be put on in this fashion, according to the size of the hook. Artificial grains of wood and painted yellow to represent the real thing are often used, and do fairly well, but very often the real grain will take three or four fish without breaking, and it is not very much trouble detaching the hook from the cast to re-bait. The way to commence fishing is to proceed to the head of the rapid to be fished and cast in a handful of the "chunna." This will attract all the fish, and with the second handful thrown in, the real bait should be cast in with it. It is at once taken and the fish rushes off. It will

be found that the fish, after three or four are taken, gradually recede down the rapid, as landing each successive fish disturbs the water below. Very often a good fish or two is taken when the rapid is played out, in the pool at the bottom—but seldom more than a couple. The larger fish lie just at the end of the rapids. The clearer the water and the hotter it is, the better the sport. April, May and October are the best months. At Lumheta Ghât, there are two runs, one above and one below the village. Also between Goaree Ghât and Lumheta are several good places. The rocks being apparently of volcanic origin, the whole river is full of sharp ridges and scoriated projecting rocks and very often the fine gut cast used is cut like a knife, by fish running in and out among these rocks. A landing net is very useful and should always be taken. The morning seems the best time, but it is of no use commencing until the water has been warmed up by the sun.

*XV.—Fishing in Dohra Dun Rivers—Jumna, Arsun and Giri—by T. P. LUSCOMBE, ESQ.*

Distant some 26 miles from Saharunpur *viâ* Chakrata Road to Arson Bridge; best way to reach the water is by dâk from Saharunpur. There is a Forest Officer's bungalow at Rampore Mundi, on left bank of the Jumna looking down stream. The Rajah of Sirmoor's staging bungalow is on a cliff some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles below the mouth of the Giri opposite Rampore Mundi—mouth of the Giri at Batha Mundi—permission is required to use the Nahun bungalows. To fish the Giri and in fact all these streams, it is best to have a good pony, start at 3 A.M., ride out and fish back, having *chota hazrie* to meet one-half way at some known spot. The best time of the year is from 15th March to 10th May for the Jumna—and from 15th March to the rains for the Giri and Arsun. There are Mahseer in the Jumna up to 100 lbs. in the Giri to 25 or 30 lbs. and in the Arsun to 10 or 12 lbs., Trout run up to 3 lbs. but are scarce.

The best way to fish in the *Jumna*, is with two to four inch flying spoons (Luscombe & Co.'s), gilt or silver gilt, from boat "Surnai" or raft—Blackamoor and "Cock-of-the walk" flies take too—Rod, an 18-foot one or over, and moderately stiff.

For the *Giri*.—Spoonflies from one to two inches in length—Gilt ones best. Flies with a lot of yellow and gold tinsel, an 18 foot rod—water generally clear, and fine tackle most successful.

For the *Arsun*.—Spoonflies from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, gilt best ; a 12-foot rod and fine single gut traces.

In the *Jumna* the best places are—

- (1) Mouth of Giri.
- (2) Mouth of Arsun.
- (3) Pounta Pool.
- (4) Mouth of Koonur Stream.
- (5) Runs below Batha Mundi.
- (6) Right down to Tajawalla.

The *Giri* is a succession of runs up to above old Sirmoor. The best place is the "weir run" and what we called the "castle run" from a large rock on one side like an old castle—The *Jumna* River is first class for big fish, until the snow water comes down, generally from 10th to 20th of May, when only bait fishing (Chupattie) will kill. Pounta Pool is a grand turning pool, and holds enormous fish, but they are not easily got ; as there is a temple above the pool from which the fish are fed, and such fish rarely take spinning bait or fly well. There are many runs all fishable from a boat, raft, or "Surnai," but very few can be properly fished from the bank, although below Batha Mundi there are some places fairly accessible from the bank. When fishing in the *Giri*, we lived at Rampore Mundi bungalow, and rode off across country—generally as far as the "weir run"—two rods, and taking opposite sides or alternate pools, fished down. Breakfast met us at the big

cotton tree, half-way, and we generally got back by 10 or 11 A.M., at latest. The best bag made in one morning was 22 fish, the largest 15 lbs., down to 3 lbs.

I killed one 20 lbs., fish at the "weir run" afterwards, and two more out of the "Castle rock run." The Giri is not a snow river, but thunderstorms are frequent, and generally spoil the river for two or three days, but it is best the day it clears after such a storm. The Arsun is a small river coming down from the Dun from somewhere near Dehra, and except at one or two pools, and at the mouth, the fish generally run small. I have, however, known a gentleman take 73 fish in one day's fishing with one inch gilt spoonfly, the largest 6 lbs. down to five or six ounces, these little fellows are here very game, and go for even a larger spoonfly ever cast. Trout turn up occasionally, but if any Trout are wanted, I should use a tail Blackamoor bright fly on No. "8 H" hook, and one dropper on No. "6 H" hook, green drake, and these will kill Trout well.

*XVI.—Sport in the Poonch, by CAPTAIN J. Y. ALLAN.*

*23rd March, 1886.*—I gave Jungoo a good turn this morning, but the Poonch is still rather high, though nearly clear enough. I did not stir a fish or see one; the morning was then dull, and no sun. At 10 o'clock, I went down to the Junction and touched a fish, the first turn in "L," I fancy outside. I shortly afterwards got into a good fish which played well into the Jhelum. I landed him in about 15 minutes, a clean well shaped fish of 37 lbs. The sun has come out and if it will only keep light, I expect to do something after breakfast.

*29th March, 1886.*—The fishing since the evening of the 25th has been very disappointing. On the following morning, I got one fish, then down came the flood again, and the river was quiet and unfishable till yesterday when it looked in fair order, but was still very cold. In the afternoon, three

boats were out, but although the water was much warmer, the fish were not on the take; however, after coming down from Jungoo about 5-30 P. M., I found Colonel Hawkins playing a fish which he landed, a 10-pounder, and I had hardly let out my line, when I hooked a fish which ran so hard, and would not be denied, that I thought I had hold of a 40-pounder; however I stopped him at last and landed him in still water, a nice male fish of 17 lbs. hooked outside. Colonel Ford shortly afterwards hooked a fish in the same way; it turned out to be 15 lbs. Last night we had a slight storm, and the Poonch, although not higher, is slightly colored red.

The sky has been very overcast all the morning, and rain falling all round.

There were four boats out, but not a fish was touched, it is now looking a little like clearing, but I fear either rain or melting snow.

*XVII.—Fishing in the Surgoo, near Bagesar, Kumaon District, by CAPTAIN W. T. FAIRBROTHER, 13th Bengal Infantry.*

District Kumaon, near Bagesar, Indian Atlas Sheets No. 66 S. E. and S. W. (quarter sheets), about 78 miles from nearest railway station, Kathgodam, at foot of Naini Tal hills. From Kathgodam, by pony to Ranikhet, 39 miles, to Machkhali, eight miles, Somesar, 15 miles, and on to Bagesar, 16 miles. The best fishing is about seven miles below Bagesar. There are dāk bungalows with khansamas at every march. Good sites for tents down the river from Bagesar Village. Pagela is six miles and Ason ten miles distant. The best months for fishing seem to be April and May. The fish are Mahseer, and they run from 5 to 20 lbs. The average is, however, about 8 lbs., but there are fish of over 30 lbs. weight in this river. The best way to fish is with a spoon from the bank. No boats, wading only occasionally necessary, the river

being deep and narrow, with very heavy runs. There is much climbing over rocks from one pool to another. Fished with single gut traces and 1½ inch gold spoons. With a small flying spoon, smaller fish were caught. The river is unfordable, but easily commanded with a 16-foot rod. The water is very bright and clear in May. Best time to fish seems to be up to 11 A. M. and after 4 P. M. In many places the forest comes right down to the water and casting is difficult. Don't fish at Bagesar itself, as the natives are constantly fishing there. Up stream about three miles are some good pools, but my advice is to go at once right down the right bank of the river to village Pagela, six or seven miles by pony, along the Almora road for three miles, and then the road goes up a ravine to the right, but the path to Pagela keep along the bank of the river very high up; a pony cannot be taken as the mills are very steep. River is inaccessible till Pagela is reached, which is the first village after leaving the road. Here descend to river, where some level places for camping can be found. There are splendid runs here and for four miles down. No supplies but milk is procurable. The forest is dense, and of pine and oak. The nights are quite cool at the end of May. The altitude of Bagesar is over 3,000 feet. Coolies are required for baggage, and riding ponies are obtainable at Naini Tal and Ranikhet.

*XVIII.—Fishing in the Kosi River, Kumaon, by CAPTAIN  
W. T. FAIRBROTHER, 13th Bengal Infantry.*

District Kumaon, Sheet No. 66 S. W., Atlas of India. The fishing is about 40 miles from Naini Tal, and about the same distance from Ranikhet, *vis.*, to Kumeria, where the Ramnugger-Ranikhet cart-road crosses the river. The river is the Kosi, the best way to reach the water is by the cart-road from Ranikhet to Ramnugger. This road crosses the rivers at the best places for fishing—Naini Tal to Ranikhet is two marches. Richee 14 miles; Machor 27

miles; Kumeria 14 miles; Mohan 41 miles; Dikuli 51 and Ramnugger 56 miles.

There are road bungalows at Richee, Machor and Kumeria. There is a forest bungalow at Mohan, one must camp at Dikuli. No supplies are obtainable, even milk is only procured with great difficulty. The bungalows are furnished, but there are no servants. Permission to occupy them is required from the Executive Engineer, Military Works, Ranikhet, or the Conservator of Forests, Kumaon Division. The best time of year for fishing is April, May, and part of June, but the heat in May and June is excessive. The fish are Mahseer and run usually from 2 to 4 lbs. Fish of 5 or 6 lbs. are often caught, and although they run up to 20 lbs. or more, and are very plentiful, they are seldom caught of this size. The best way to fish is with a small spoon and fine tackle. A 14-foot rod easily commands the river; wading is necessary. The river is generally fordable; no boats are procurable. The best part of the river is from Kumeria to Mohan five miles, and then to Girjuya or Dikuli five miles. There are good runs every few hundred yards. There are some splendid pools at Dikuli full of big fish, and the Commissioner's pool at Girjuya is preserved from netting fish in the middle of the day in cool weather, and early morning in May and June.

The Kosi River rises in the hills behind Almora and flows south-west. The Naini Tal and Ranikhet road crosses it at Khairna, and small fish, up to 2 lbs., can be caught here; the best pools are below the bridge. From this for many miles down the river is unfishable, there being no good pools. There is one pool at Battleghât and at long intervals down the river.

The best part of the stream is from Kumeria to Dikuli and a few miles below, the latter being the best place. Here, early in May, all the pools were full of fish, the water was quite



clear, and the fish visible in thousands, and 20, 30 and 40-pounders were jostling each other like tame fish, but it was impossible to entice them to take any kind of bait. Natives are not allowed to fish here in the Commissioner's pool, which is right under the road. Military cart-road from Moradabad to Ranikhet by Ramnugger, crosses the road by a suspension bridge at Dikuli; it then leaves the river for five miles, and again crosses it at Kumeria. The river does not receive snow-water, it is only a small stream at Khairna, but has more water at Kumeria. It is easily fordable everywhere. Good shooting can be obtained in the reserved forests at Kumeria and Mohan, for which permission is required. Jerao (stags), kakur (pheasants) and jungle fowls are numerous. Goorals are to be found higher up at Machor. It is very hot at and below Kumeria, being only 1,000 feet in altitude, but it is cold at Richee and Machor, which are about 6,000 feet above the level of the sea.

A map shewing the various fishing localities in Kumaon, and which has been kindly prepared by Captain W. T. Fairbrother is herewith given.

*XIX.--Fishing at Malwa Tal, near Naini Tal, Kumaon District, by G. MASSY, ESQ., Norfolk Regiment.*

Malwa Tal is in the Kumaon District, 14 miles from the Kathgoodam Railway Station on the Rohilkhund and Kumaon Railway.

The best way to reach the water is by road from Kathgoodam—first to Bhim Tal which is seven miles, and then seven miles on to the Malwa Tal.

There is a bungalow with complete furniture, but no *khan-sama*; also there are good sites for tents near the bungalow. The best time of the year to visit the water is in April, May, June and after the rains till October. The fish to be caught are Mahseer and run up to 40lbs. weight. Average size 2lbs. or so. The best way to fish is with fly from boat,

fishing round the edge, under overhanging bushes, rocks, etc. Fishing from the bank is almost impossible. The best flies to use appear to be "Tag-of-towel" oak fly; march brown; "cock-y-bondhu," and a fly with yellow body, dark tail, brown hackle and yellow Mallard's wings. This latter always seem to take. The cast used should be fine. The best time to fish is when there is a good ripple on the water and the fish are most on the feed between 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

The large fish will not take a fly, and the natives say that the largest taken that way is 10 lbs. which I should fancy is unusual. The only way to catch the large fish is with live-bait, or by trailing a spoon behind a boat. The best way to catch them with live-bait is to have a second rod ready, and when the breeze drops, or in the morning before it begins (about 10 A. M.), to put live-bait on and try where the river runs in at the top of the lake. Single gut with one Salmon hook, hooked through the lip of the bait, appears to do well. During the rains the river is swollen and the large fish go up. There are some nice pools for about two miles up the river; beyond this the river bed is too steep and rocky.

There are two boats kept at the bungalow, the charge for which is 8 annas a day. Between 10 and 2 in the day, the fish are mostly near the surface, and can be easily seen. The best plan then is to drift quietly up, and then throw the fly lightly in front of a fishes' nose; if he does not see the gut he is almost certain to take it, but they are very quick in spitting it out again. In the hills round Malwa Tal are a fair number of jerao, kakur, gooral and kallige pheasants, which latter come down to the lake. Milk can be obtained in the village, but other supplies must be brought from Naini Tal, or got from the khansama at Bhim Tal. There is a Post Office at Bhim Tal and letters are brought on by a village postman to Malwa Tal. Boatmen can be got at the village,

*XX.—Notes on stocking tanks, kindly contributed by H. S. THOMAS, ESQ., Madras Civil Service, by letter to BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. C. WILKINSON, C.B.*

"About stocking tanks." In Bengal you are far in advance of us and have facilities in trained men ready to your hand. The natives about you buy the fry of fish regularly every year to stock their ponds, and as there is a regular demand there has grown to be a regular supply; and the fishermen are in the habit of catching the fry of good sorts of fish, picking them out from the common lot, carrying them alive, and selling them at so much a hundred, something very cheap!

The sort that natives most affect are the Catla and Rohi; and you cannot do better than follow them especially as so far you will find your way made easy for you.

(1.) The "Catla" is the Catla Buchanani of science; and the Catla of Bengal. Day says that it attains at least six feet in length. I have never seen it so long, but 10lbs., 20lbs., and 30lbs. are not unusual weights; and we know that it takes a bait freely enough, except in the cold weather, and is good eating.

(2.) The Rohi is Labeo Rohita, also well known as Ruhi, or Rohi, 5, 10 and 20lbs. and fair weights.

(3.) The "Labeo Calbasu" is as also well known to you as "Kala-banse" and gives the same sport as the Ruhi, and attains the same size. We have it not in South India, but we have an inferior cousin in Cirrhuia Cirrhoia; and it was with this and with the Labeo Calbasu or "Kala-banse," that four rods in three days took 678 lbs. of fish, float fishing with a paste bait. I can assure you it was right royal sport such as you could not get in Europe, and yet they wanted the very best fishing to catch them. It was infinitely more difficult, than fly, spinning, or roach fishing, and the fish ran commonly 1lb., 1½ lbs., and 2lbs. each, with a good lot of 5, 6, 7 and 8lbs. each; and some that broke us. You could make as good or better fishing for yourselves in the two havildars' tanks (referring, it

is believed, to Calcutta); if you would simply buy up as fry of two or three inches long or thereabouts, two or three thousand each of the above four sorts, and turn them in annually, and let it be an understood thing among you that anything under 1lb. is thrown in again, and that there is no netting.

There is no difficulty about recognising the fry of these four different sorts of fish. The fishermen, who know them by the names I have given you, pick them out of the crowds caught in their nets, as fast as you could pick out pice and rupees jumbled in a heap on the floor. These all take a paste-bait; and when large, a small line bait of 1 to 1½ inches in length or a shrimp. But a paste-bait and float is the usual thing. For those who *must* have a fish that take a fly, I would say that if you like, you may add *megalops cyprinoides*. I cannot tell you the Hindustani name for it; and the Tamil name would not help you. It is an estuary fish which thrives very well in fresh water, and runs up to a cubit in length. I have seen it in one of the ponds on the maidan at Calcutta, into which it must have got from the Hooghly. It takes a white Salmon fly, the size of a small Salmon fly, and having taken it, fights right well, springing into the air like a Trout. It sports, however, only for an hour or so before dusk.

XXI.—*Notes on fishing in Kashmir, by MAJOR R. J. PIKE, the Suffolk Regiment.*

The river is the *Pohra* which joins the Jhelum river near Sopor, which is two marches from Srinugger. The river is slow running, but with runs here and there. The best way to reach the water is by boat from Sopor to Bargam, called by the "manjies" (native boatmen) Poorah, which is the first and best place I have fished.

There is a good camping-ground at Zolerah and also shooting, and there is a spring of very good water at Zolerah, and there are a lot of sacred fish in this spring. When they are on the move, fish are always to be caught at Bargam,

distant from Zolera 1¼ miles. I fished at Bargam, Wadi-pore, Coolengam, in May, June and July (1887); and at Khupwara, in August. The name and average size of the fish to be caught are as follows :—

(1.) The "Chirroo."—This fish runs they say to 14lbs.; the best caught by me was 7¼lbs. Average about 1½lbs.

(2.) The "Gaurd"—said to reach 10lbs. The best caught was 3lbs. Average between ½ and ¾ of a pound.

The best way to fish at Bargam, is as follows :—A small Devon Minnow, 1¼ inch silver and brown (Jeffery's Plymouth pattern) killed five-sixths of my fish. Spoon, No. 2 size, and natural bait are best in heavy water. Smaller fish may be caught with fly in backwaters, both above and below the heavy water. From the left bank, fish from the shore unless the water is very high. At Wadi-pore and Coolengam, fishing can be carried on, either by wading or from a boat, at Khupwara by wading. Bargam is the best place; the best cast is about half way down the run, cast into opposite back-water, and draw the Minnow slowly towards you and down stream; use no lead with a Devon Minnow, but with spoon as heavy a lead as possible.

The second best cast :—Anchor boat above heavy water and fish where water first breaks.

The third best cast is in the heavy water on right side of the river, and Ramzama, boatman, showed me the water—From 5 to 8 or 9 A. M., and from 4 to 6-30 P. M. is the best time to fish. During June, and when the mulberries are ripe, the fish feed on them greedily; you may catch a few with a black fly or an imitation mulberry. On the other runs, the following flies killed well :—

	<i>Body.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Hackle.</i>
No. 1	... Red and black	... Mallard	... Red,
No. 2	... Green ...	... Teal	... Brown.
No. 3	... Green ...	... Grouse	... Red or black.
No. 4	... The "Alexandria"	.....	.....
No. 5	... The "Black Talmer"		.....

If the fish were on the move, any of the above were killing ; but No. 1 for choice, on any day, or at any time.

The fishing by itself is not worth the journey, but when combined with shooting, is quite "good enough," and makes a pleasant change. I fished on 19 days, for 1 to 1½ hours a day, and got in all 172 fish weighing 121 lbs.

The best fish scaled 7¾ lbs. The river is unfortunately much poached, both by netting and fish traps, and by the male population turning out and muddying the water ; and then catching the fish in their hands. Were it preserved, the fishing on the higher waters would be very good.

*XXII.—Notes on fishing at Domel, by WALTER DENNY, ESQ.*

Domel is in Poonch territory, and about 80 miles from Rawulpindi (40 from Murree). The fishing ground is at the junction of the Kishengunga and Jhelum rivers (very rapid water).

The best way to reach the water is to go to Kohala from Murree by pony, 18 miles all down hill. To Deywal (10 miles), the road is shady ; remaining part exposed to the sun. Thence by tonga from Kohala to Domel about 23 miles, say about four hours by tonga. Ponies and ekkas are also procurable and one can halt at Dulai, 11 miles. There is an exceptionally good bungalow at Domel, recently built by the Kashmir Government ; Khansama all stores, wines, etc., procurable. There are also good sites for tents, the best time of the year to visit the water is from the beginning of March to the end of April ; and again towards close of the rains say in August. The fish are Mahseer, and Kashmir Trout. Mahseer have been caught up to 40lbs. I lost myself some very heavy fish for want of steel traces ; and could not land them on gut ones. If fishing from the bank, "atta" must be used. I was able from a gangway on wheels to get to water suitable for spinning, and was successful with the "Panjab" spoons. A wooden platform is now being built which will

enable one to get at the best water. With one or two long ropes, logs of wood could be moored in a good position, no boats being obtainable.

Treble gut casts were useless for landing large fish. Landing is difficult owing to the boulders and heavy water. Steel traces are recommended. Color of water is slate blue. I caught nothing at midday. From very early morning to 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. to dusk are the best times. The bungalow is nicely situated close to the river.

*General notes on Domel.*—Colonel Woodruffe who fished at Domel last year (1886) several times was very successful in August, fishing with "atta;" getting 7 fish in one day,—biggest 40lbs. He found that at that time the fish would take no other bait except "atta," and also that the fish did not run with such force as they do at Tangrôt and other places. The 40-pounder was taken on a light rod, and only 50 yards of running line.

A letter has just been received from A. Atkinson, Esq., Kohala, stating that a fishing jetty is being built at Domel, and which should prove a great boon to fishermen.

*XXIII.—Notes on fishing in the Jhelum River, near Sopor in Kashmir, by MAJOR R. R. J. PIKE, the Suffolk Regiment.*

District Kashmir, river Jhelum, at following places:—

- (1.) *Sopor.*—At which there are two bungalows but out of repair.
  - (2.) *Ninghal.*—Tents might be pitched here but best to live in boats.
  - (3.) *Bannair.*—Best to live in boats.
  - (4.) *Hajkun*
  - (5.) *Symbal*
  - (6.) *Shadipur*
- } —At these three latter places tents can either be pitched or one can live in boats.

The best time of the year to visit these places is as follows:—

- (1.) *Sopor.*—For Mahseer in June and July; for Kashmir Trout, May to September.

- (2.) *Ninghal*.—For Mahseer from 15th July to 15th August.
- (3.) *Bannair*.—Kashmir Trout in August and September.
- (4.) *Hajhun*. Ditto ditto ditto
- (5.) *Symbal*.—From July to September.
- (6.) *Shadipore*.—In May, June and July.

The fish are as follows:—Mahseer which at Sopor average 8 to 10lbs ; at Ninghal they may be any weight.

"Chirroo" and "Gaurd"\* average about 1½lbs., but some run to 18 or 20lbs.

The baits which appear to be most successful at the above places are as follows :—

*Sopor*.—Natural bait ; devil 1½ to 2½ inches ; a flying spoon, Devon Minnow, and a fly with green body and teal wing.

*Ninghal*.—Natural bait ; frog ; devil, and spoons of sorts.

*Bannair*.—Devon Minnow ; devil, No. 3 flying spoon, and fly.

*Hajhun*.—Devon Minnow large and small, Nos. 2 and 3 flying spoons and natural baits.

*Symbal*.—Same as Hajhun—Flies black and red body, and grouse wing, or a white fly best.

*Shadipore*.—I did not fish here, but heard that spoons of sorts kill best.

All the above places are fished from a boat. The best casts at Sopor are above and below the arches on each side of river, and opposite the Hindoo temple below the bridge.

At Ninghal, the boatman will take you over the ground. There are three men at Sopor who go out with gentlemen, viz., Soupora, and Azais his son ; and Kurreem, son of Khama. I prefer the latter as he does not speak unless spoken to. There is a very good mistri at Sopor who turns out spoons, etc., at a low price and makes hooks.

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\* *N. B.*—It is presumed that the "Chirroo" and "Gaurd" are species of Kashmir trout, although this is not mentioned.



The best time of day to fish the following places are as follows :—

*Sopor.*—4 A. M. to 9 A. M. and 4 to 6 P. M.

*Ninghal.*—3 A. M. to 9 A. M. and 4 to 7 P. M. and by moonlight. The water should neither rise or fall, and it is useless to fish if the wind gets up.

*Bannair.*—Cloudy days best. Best time 3-30 A. M. to 6 A. M. ; 7-30 A. M. to 10 A. M. and 5 to 7. P. M., and the lower the water the better the sport. Ramgama my boatman knows this water wonderfully well, and also Sopor, Ninghal, Hajhun and Symbal.

*Hajhun.*—Same remarks as for Bannair ; there are said to be Mahseer here.

*Symbal.*—Same remarks as for Bannair ; best fishing at arch on left bank ; next best place at arch on right bank. The fishing here is said to be good in high water and a Mahseer can be caught at times.

*Shadipore.*—Fishing really on Scinde river, about half mile from junction with Jhelum. Early in the season when the Jhelum runs high is best for this place.

The following extracts from my fishing book may be of interest :—

SOPOR. 1887.

*May 17th.*—5 Kashmir trout, weight 5lbs., best fish 1½lbs. on spoons Nos. 2 and 3 flying.

*May 18th.*—13 Kashmir trout, weight 10½lbs., best fish 1¼lbs., on No. 2 flying spoon and fly.

*May 19th.*—2 Kashmir trout, weight 3lbs., best fish 2lbs., one on fly and one on spoon. Heavy storm came on.

*May 20th.*—7 Kashmir trout, weight 6½lbs., best fish 2½lbs., taken on fly and flying spoon.

*June 6th.*—13 Kashmir trout, weight 10lbs., best fish  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., on flying spoon.

*June 7th.*—1 Mahseer of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., and 11 Kashmir trout of  $11\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Best  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., on No. 2 flying spoon and natural bait.

Total caught at Sopor :—1 Mahseer of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. and 51 Kashmir trout of  $46\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

#### NINGHAL.

*August 12th.*—2 Mahseer, weight 13lbs. Best fish  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. 1 Kashmir trout, 6lbs., on two-inch Devon Minnow and frog. Saw a 39-pounder caught here.

*August 15th.*—1 Mahseer, weight 47lbs., caught on frog. Weighed four hours after capture ; landed in 29 minutes. Length,  $48\frac{1}{2}$  inches, girth,  $26\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*August 16th.*—20 Kashmir trout, weight 8lbs., best fish  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., with fly.

*August 17th.*—22 Kashmir trout, weight  $7\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., best fish 1lb.

Total caught at Ninghal :—3 Mahseer weighing 60lbs., 43 Kashmir trout, weighing  $21\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.

#### BANNAIR.

*August 18th.*—28 Kashmir trout, weighing  $17\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., best fish  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.—18 of these fish on Devon Minnow ; 5 on fly, 5 on No. 3 spoon.

*August 19th.*—44 Kashmir trout, weighing 53lbs., best fish 3lbs.—Forty on flying spoon, 2 on fly, 2 on Devon Minnow.

*August 20th.*—28 Kashmir trout, weighing  $49\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., best fish 4lbs.—25 of these on large Silver Devon Minnow.

*August 21st.*—13 Kashmir trout, weighing  $19\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., best fish  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. on Devon Minnow.

*August 24th.*—20 fish weighing 24lbs., best fish  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., 10 on Devon Minnow, 5 on devil, and 5 on spoon.

*August 26th.*—7 Kashmir trout, weighing  $11\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., best fish  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., on two-inch Silver Devon Minnow. Ran a big fish which seemed like a Mahseer and which got under the boat but was lost by hooks straightening.

Total caught at Bannair :—140 Kashmir trout, weighing 185 lbs.

#### HAJHUN.

*August 22nd.*—19 Kashmir trout, weighing 31 lbs., best fish  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., 14 on Brass Devon Minnow, 2 on Silver Devon Minnow, and 3 on flying spoon.

*August 23rd.*—11 Kashmir trout, weighing  $15\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., best fish 3 lbs., all on Devon Minnow—lost a large fish in the morning. During the day, a native netted the runs and spoilt the fishing.

Total caught at Hajhun :—30 Kashmir trout, weighing  $46\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

#### SYMBAL.

*August 25th.*—11 Kashmir trout, weighing 7 lbs., 6 on fly and 6 on Devon Minnow.—Water was neither high or low ; only caught rising fish, river very dirty, grass and reeds coming down, and gave up fishing.

*General notes.*—The above account of fishing by Major Pike goes to prove that the Devon Minnow is an excellent bait for Kashmir fishing. This gentleman has given the Sopor mistri a pattern of the Minnows used by him, which may be of use to anglers visiting Sopor hereafter. Major Pike saw Mahseer of 39, 24 and 16 lbs. caught, and heard of others of 27, 32, 38, 42 and over 50 lbs., respectively, in this locality.

It is believed that at Baramoola, one march from Sopor, that there is good fishing, and at Sumbul and on some parts of the Woolar lake, fishing is obtainable. I have heard of fish being taken at Kohala on the Murree route to Kashmir, and

two marches from Murree ; but have been informed that this is somewhat exceptional.

*XXIV.—A few notes on the fishing at Abazai, near Peshawur, in the Swat River, extracted from a letter received from F. J. H. BARTON, ESQ., The Queen's Own Corps of Guides.*

In the very cold weather the Mahseer seem to disappear altogether. In the hot weather months they can be got in the snow water, except when a bad flood comes down. In moderately thick water they take well, and "atta," mixed with turmeric (*huldee*) until it is a bright yellow, is the bait. The "atta" should not be put on the hook in a round lump, but first rolled out to the shape of a sausage and then worked on to the hook round the bend and covering the shank. This is much more effective than the ordinary way of baiting with paste, *i.e.*, in one round piece put on, and worked down over the hook until it is like a ball or somewhat pear-shaped. A bullet running on the line should be used, and three feet of stout Salmon gut, and the bait should be cast out down stream.

The biggest I have got was 30lbs. also one 15lbs. and many of 7, 8 and 9lbs. This was from June 1st to September 1st. In November I was at Abazai for a fortnight, but although the water looked perfect I could not move a fish. Probably in March and April, fish could be taken spinning as the water is clear as crystal.

There are plenty of "Buchwa" to be caught with worm or live bait all through the hot weather, and in November a fish we call "Catfish\*"—his proper name I do not know,—but he is a siluroid of sorts and runs up to 10 or 12lbs. He takes worm or live-bait. Above the fort where the river leaves the hills, you can see any amount of fat "Rohu" up to about 5lbs. rolling along and sucking the rocks, but I have

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\**N. B.*—The "Catfish" mentioned is from a description and drawing sent, is supposed to be the "Wallago Attu" or Mullee."

never yet succeeded in catching any. Near Abazai is a tributary stream in which I had splendid sport with a fly, getting three dozen Mahseer in an hour and-a-half from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3lbs. on Trout flies. The name of the river is the Swat, and it runs into the Cabul River at "Nishutta."

*XXV.—Notes on the Sirun River, by* LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. JACKSON, *5th Bengal Cavalry,—5th September 1887.*

(1.) *District Hazara*—The place to commence fishing is Thapla, 27 miles from Hussun Abdal Railway Station. The Sirun has good pools at short distances from each other. The best way to reach the water is by tonga to Hurripur and drive or ride from the dāk bungalow there to Thapla. Syud Mahomed Hussein of Thapla (Rais) is most civil and obliging, and does everything possible for visitors. Tents can be pitched under some trees and at a well near the river. The Syud will point out the best spots. He is a fisherman himself and so is his brother. The best time of year to fish is March to May and September to November.

Fish are Mahseer and heavy fish are frequently taken. The best way to fish is with a spoon fly; much wading can be done with advantage—no boats can be used. Any pool between Thapla and Torbela village can be fished, and one can fish all day except between 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. in May. There are several good pools between Thapla and Sherwan (up stream). Frogs are a good bait towards the Sherwan water. You can approach Sherwan by a good road from Abbottabad, if you happen to be at that station. A bannia should be taken as it is difficult to obtain supplies between Thapla and Sherwan. At the junction of the Dore and Sirun rivers below the Syud's house at Thapla is a good place to begin, and there are eight capital pools between this and Torbela, five miles distant. Unless arrangements are made with the Post Office, letters for Thapla go on to Torbela and are returned from thence, thereby causing delay."

**XXVI.—Fishing Diary, Poonch River, Kashmir, by CAPTAIN LUMSDEN, Bengal Staff Corps.**

*September 24th, 1886.*—Arrived at Kotli on Poonch River from Kashmir. Captain Mansel in camp there had just landed a fine fish of 28lbs., which he hooked while wading in the lower reach. I had previously ordered two of the Tangrôt boats up to Kotli to meet me and a friend. The boats took seven days coming up, and I paid them the usual one rupee a day per boat, nothing extra. Boatman's name Rheim Alli, and my fisherman's or servant's name Hyder, both of Tangrôt. My baggage, tents, pony, etc., followed the river round the bends, while I travelled in the boat. No road, but in some places a village track, very stony and difficult. Coolies (10) and supplies procurable by sending on a man daily in advance. My tent, a sowar's pal. Route unfit for ladies to attempt and malarious. Map alluded to is small scale District Map, sheet No. 29. The bag is the result of one rod.

*September 25th.*—Kotli.—Very hot. Thermometer in my tent at 9 A. M., 92°. Fished from 6 A. M. to 8-30 A. M. Spinning from boat in long reach down the river.

Fish 12, 8, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4 and 3 lbs. 5 P. M. to 8 P. M. in water holes near camp. Fly and spinning from bank.

Fish 6, 5, 4, 4, 2, 2 and 2 lbs. Lost 2 spoons and gut trace. Mapped out route and sent Tehsildar's chuprassie on to Baralli in advance.

*September 26th.*—Thatli.—A few huts, near village Baralli, left bank about six miles. Supplies and coolies satisfactory. Village high up on the rocks. River very rapid and running in a narrow channel. Boat shipped a lot of water over the rapids, some of which are dangerous. Fished from boat in some excellent pools, and in some short but likely looking reaches. Fish very strong and healthy, and caught on an Eaton and Deller's 2½-inch spoon and 14-foot rod.

The fish all fought very gamely. Fish—A. M., 10, 10, 8, 8, 6, 6, 6, 4, 4 and 4 lbs.; P. M., 10, 9, 5 and 3 lbs. Excessively hot and close by the river.

*September 27th.*—Left Thatli for very small village (only a few huts), off Chak on left bank about five miles. Supplies and coolies scarce. Chak is about two miles from Guepoora where supplies are procurable. Had to pitch tent in the open, as there was no shady tree within sight. River full of large boulders and some very good fishing reaches. Thermometer at 9 A. M., 94°. Boat damaged a little over the rapids; fish giving very good sport.

Fish—A.M., 9, 8, 8, 6, 6, 4, 4, 4, 3 and 3lbs.; P.M. 14, 12, 12, 8, 5 and 5lbs.

*September 28th.*—Moved to village called Nar, about eight miles on left bank opposite to village marked Dagar on the map. Supplies and coolies satisfactory. Camped under a shady tree close to the river, called by the villagers "Bearer." Shot a few jungle cats and passed many sandstone hills full of blue rock pigeons.

Fishing good; pools deep and stony; lost three large fish by hooks breaking.—A. M., 9, 8, 7, 7, 6, 5, 4, 4 and 4 lbs.; P. M., 12, 10, 9 and 5lbs.

*September 29th.*—Moved to village Kirmal on left bank six miles, opposite to Sooroo on the map. Camped under some shady willows close to bank. Supplies and coolies plentiful. Reaches and pools numerous and good.

Fish—A. M., 10, 8, 8, 7, 6, 6, 4 and 4 lbs.; P. M., 9, 6, and 2lbs.

*September 30th.*—Moved to Talak about five miles. A storm in the hills brought the river down red. Had to content myself with shooting blue rocks which are plentiful.

*Remarks.*—Owing to my leave running short, I was unable to stop at the different places. Any one wishing to do the trip, I would advice to travel as light as possible, and carry one day's supply of "atta" for all hands.

---

*General notes on above.*—From Captain Lumsden's very interesting account of fishing in the Poonch, it will be seen what magnificent sport is obtainable in it. Captain Lumsden's bag being 424lbs. of fish in five days' fishing, being an average of 84lbs. of fish per diem, and all taken on 14-foot rod and light tackle.







## APPENDIX.

---

In addition to the detailed notes in Part II, it may be mentioned that fishing can be obtained at the following places, regarding which no detailed information is to hand :—

- (1.) Beas River, District Hoshiarpur.
- (2.) Okla Weir, near Delhi.
- (3.) At Rupar, in the Amballa District, at head of Sirhind Canal .

It is also believed that fishing has been obtained in the Chenab near Wazirabad, in the Ravi near Lahore, and in the Beyn near Jullunder.

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# ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

## A.

	PAGE.
"Atta"-Fishing ... ..	16, 33
"Atta," Preparation of—before using ... ..	16
Argentine, or Silvering Cream ... ..	8
Archimedean Baits ... ..	31
Attóck, Fishing near— ... ..	71
Arsun River, Fishing in— ... ..	82, 94
Assam, Fishing in— ... ..	82
Abazai, Fishing at—... ..	111

## B.

Bait, Natural. Fishing with—for small Mahseer ... ..	13
Baits, Artificial—Recommended for Dadupore ... ..	74
Butchwa, Notes on Fishing for— ... ..	36
Butchwa fishing at Jhelum ... ..	36
Boots for fishing ... ..	55
Burwa-Sagur, Fishing at— ... ..	83
Bannair, Fishing at— ... ..	106
Bagesur, Fishing at— ... ..	97
Bargam, Fishing at— ... ..	103

## C.

Chilwa, Spinning with— ... ..	13
Chilwa—using it as a dead-bait ... ..	15
Chilwa—using it as a live-bait ... ..	16
Chirroo, The, Fishing for—in Kashmir ... ..	104
Clothes, Color of—for fishing ... ..	56
Chiblat River, Fishing in— ... ..	9
Campbellpur, Fishing near— ... ..	69
Compression, Power of—by Mahseer ... ..	2, 29
Coolengam, Fishing at— ... ..	104
Cabul River ... ..	70
Chak, Fishing at— ... ..	77
Changus-Seral, Fishing at— ... ..	64

## D.

Devon Minnow, Fishing with— ... ..	110
Dead-bait, Fishing with—for large Mahseer ... ..	31
Dead-bait, Mount for—described... ..	32
Dead-bait, To preserve— ... ..	54
Dress, an Angler's, suitable ... ..	55
Dadupore, Fishing at— ... ..	71
Domel, Fishing at— ... ..	105
Dhalcote, Fishing at— ... ..	67

## F.

	PAGE.
Fly-fishing for Mahseer	18
Frog. Fishing with—described	33
Frog. Mount for—described	34
Fish. Various method of landing—	35
Fishing in the Cold Weather	39
Fish. Packing of—	47
Fish. Carriage of—	47
Fishing Expeditions. Records of—	48
Fishing Records. Best form for—	49
Fly. Description of—recommended for Korung	91
Fly. Description of—recommended for Jumna, Arsun and Giri	95
Fly. Description of—recommended for Malwa Tal	101
Flies, for Kashmir.	104
Furniture-Camp, etc. Notes on—	57
Fig. Fishing with—	17
Firms. Tackle selling—	50

## G.

Gram. Fishing with—	17
Gut. Method of rendering—pliable	43
Gut. Ends of—singeing	43
Gut. Color of—	43
Gut. Recipés for dyeing of various colors	43, 44
Gut. Traces, Knotting	54
Gaurd, The. Fishing for—in Kashmir	104
Gwalli, The—	86
Gaffs	35
Gimp	22
Gwalior. Fishing near—	83
Giri River. Fishing in—	82, 94

## H.

Hajun. Fishing at—	106
Hooks. Inspection of—before use	41
Hooks. Rhoe Carp—	11
Hooks. Limerick and other kinds—	11
Hooks. Treble—	11, 28
Hurroo River. Fishing in—	69
Hurdwar. Fishing near—	87
Hussun Abdal. Fishing at—	91

## I.

Indus River. Fishing in—	70
--------------------------	----

## J.

Jumna River. Fishing in—	94
Jubbulpore. Fishing near—	92
Jhelum River. Fishing in—	106
Jhansi. Fishing near—	83

**K.**

	PAGE.
Kashmir. Fishing in—	103, 106
Kosi River. Fishing in—	98
Korung River. Fishing in—	90
Kalabanse, The—	102
Kotli. Fishing at—	113
Kirmal. Fishing at—	114

**L.**

Leads. Method of fastening—to trace	26
Lines, for Light Mahseer Fishing	4
Lines. Tussa Silk—	5
Lines. Treatment of—after Fishing	5
Lines, for Heavy Fishing	22
Lines, Manchester Cotton Spinning Company	22
Lines. Care of—	5
Lines. Dressing of—described	51
Lines. Making secure—to spindle of reel	42
Lines. Recipés for dressing—	51
Leh River. Fishing in—	88
Loonda River.	70

**M.**

Mahseer, The. Description of—and peculiarities	1, 2
Mahseer Fishing. Two classes—or descriptions of	4
Mounts, Flying. Method of adjusting hooks of—	10
Mounts Flying. Upper hook to be ringed—	10
Mounts, Flying. Hooks recommended for—	11
Mahseer. Great power of compression by the—	2
Melon. Method of fishing with—	17
Mahl River. Fishing in—	65
Malwa Tal. Fishing at—	100
Mural, The—	83
Mullee, The—	37

**N.**

Nets. Landing—	12
Nets. Casting—	51
Natural bait. Best season for—	31
Nowshera. Fishing at—	64
Nerbudda River. Fishing in—	92
Ninghal. Fishing at—	106
Nar. Fishing at—	114
Narora. Fishing at—	84

**P.**

Paransi, The	86
Parched gram or chenna. Fishing with—	17
Phantoms	31
Pahooj River. Fishing in—	83
Poonch River. Fishing in—	77, 96, 113
Pohra River. Fishing in—	103
Prices of Tackle	12, 30

## R.

	PAGE.
Rods, for Light Mahseer Fishing ...	4
Rods, for Heavy Mahseer Fishing ...	21
Rods. Lengths of— ...	4, 21
Rods. Case for— ...	40
Rods. Destructive practices to— ...	40
Rods. Preservation of— ...	40, 41
Rods. Castle Connell— ...	21
Rods. Varnish for, recipes for— ...	50
Reel, for Light Mahseer Fishing... ..	4
Reel, for Heavy Mahseer Fishing... ..	21
Reels. Native-made— ...	21, 22
Reels. Leather Cases for— ...	22
Reels. Inspection of before use, points to be noted ...	42
Ring for end of top joint. Revolving— ...	21
Rings. Rod ...	45
Rohu, The. Fishing for— ...	36
Rohu, The. Bait recommended for— ...	36
"Rhog Carp" Hooks ...	11
Raiwala. Fishing at— ...	87
Rawal River. Fishing in— ...	90
Rajaori. Fishing at— ...	64

## S.

Swivels for Light Mahseer Fishing ...	6
Swivels. Preparation of—before use ...	6
Swivels, "Pennell," described ...	6
Swivels,—Hook, buckle, or spring ...	7
Swivels for heavy fishing ...	24
Swivels. Notes on by T. P. Luscombe, Esq. ...	24
Swivels. Materials for—Brass, blue-steel, Aluminium, and German Silver ...	24, 25
Spoons for Light Mahseer Fishing ...	7, 8
Spoons. Hog beaked. Description of— ...	7
Spoons. Silvering of— ...	8
Spoons. Mounting of for Light Mahseer Fishing ...	9
Spoons, flying. Mounts for— ...	9, 10, 11
Spoons, small. Merits of single and treble hooks when used as mounts for— ...	9
Spoons for heavy fishing ...	26, 27
Spoons. Method of attaching to trace ...	9, 28
Spoons. Holes in position of ...	28
Spoons. Choice of triangles suitable for— ...	29
Spoons, large. Method of mounting— ...	28
Spoons. Lengths of— ...	27, 31
Spoons, and method of mounting by H. B. Dunsford, Esq. ...	74
Spoons. Mounting of by Captain Maycock ...	85
Spoons recommended for Torbela ...	62
Spoons recommended for Tangit and Poonch ...	77
Spoons recommended for River Towi ...	64
Spoons for Sohan, Leh, Korung and Chiblat ...	88
Spoons recommended for Jumba, Arsun and Gori ...	94
Spoons recommended for Shekopur ...	81
Spoons recommended for the Surjoo ...	97

*S.—Continued.*

	PAGE.
Spoons recommended for Sooswa, Arsun and Giri	82, 90
Spoons recommended for Narora, Ganges Canal	84
Spoon fishing, for small Mahseer, how carried on	19
Spinner. Artificial—for dead-bait,	14, 15
Split rings	9, 28
Sundries. List of necessary—	4, 4
Splicing. Notes on—	53
Saharunpur. Fishing near—	87
Surjoo River. Fishing in—	97
Sarasati River. Fishing in—	82
Sooswa River. Fishing in—	82
Shekopur. Fishing at—	81
Sohan River. Fishing in—	88
Scinde River, Kashmir. Fishing in—	108
Scinde River, Central India. Fishing in—	83
Sark River. Fishing in—	83
Sopor. Fishing at—	106
Symbol. Fishing at—	106
Shadipore. Fishing at—	106
Swat River. Fishing in—	111
Sirun River	112

*T.*

Tajuwala. Fishing at—	71
Tackle for light fishing. Detailed Estimate for outfit of—	12
Tackle for heavy fishing. Detailed Estimate for outfit of—	30
Tackle, cheap. Articles of—depreciated	30
Tackle. General notes on—	39
Tackle. Case for—	40
Tackle, making up one's self	44
Tackle-purchasing. Notes on—	49
Tackle. Prices of—	12, 30
Traces, for Light Mahseer Fishing	5
Traces, for Heavy Fishing, gimp	22
Traces, for Heavy Fishing, gut	22, 23
Traces, for Heavy Fishing, wire	22, 23
Traces, wire. Disadvantages of—	23
Time of day best for fishing	20
Tengra, The. Notes on fishing for—	37
Trout, Indian. Notes on fishing for—	37
Tying or whipping. Method of fastening off—	52
Triangles or treble hooks	28, 29
Tents. Notes on—	56
Tanks. Notes on stocking—	102
Tangrôt. Fishing at—	76
Torbela. Fishing at—	61
Towi River. Fishing in—	63
Thatli. Fishing at—	114

*V.*

Varnish for Whippings. Recipés for—	40
Varnish, "Fisherman's"	40
Varnish for Rods	50



## W.

	PAGE.
Wire. Best kind of—for traces	23
Wire. Methods of annealing the several kinds of—	24
Wire traces	22, 23
Winch fittings	4
Wax, Cobbler's	45
Wax. Recipés for—	45
Weighing fish, If spring balance is too small	46, 47
Weighing fish, by calculation, without a balance	46, 47
Whippings. Method of fastening off—	52
Whippings, to be inspected and varnished periodically	40
Wallago Attu, The, or Mullee. Notes on fishing for—	37
Worms. To scour—	55
Worm fishing.	17

## Z.

Zolerah. Fishing at—	103
----------------------	-----

# INDEX TO FISHING LOCALITIES.

## CHAPTER IV.

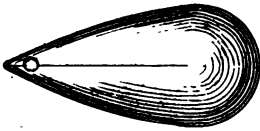
	PAGE.
I.—Fishing at Torbela by Brigadier-General Dandridge ...	61
II.—Fishing in the River Tawi, (Bhimber), by Captain Mansel, 3rd Punjab Cavalry ...	63
III.—Notes on the River Mahl, by William Mitchell, Esq., and Captain H. R. Lovett, King's Royal Rifles, and other sources ...	65
IV.—Notes on Fishing at and near Campbellpur and Attock in the Indus and Hurroo, by C. T. Dolby, Esq. ...	69
V.—Fishing at Dadupore and Tajuwala, North-West Provinces, by H. S. Dunsford, Esq., District Superintendent of Police, Rohtak ...	71
VI.—Notes on Tangrôt and part of River Poonch, by G. H. Lacy, Esq., Bengal Staff Corps ...	76
VII.—Fishing at Shekopur-Jhelum River, by G. H. Lacy, Esq., Bengal Staff Corps ...	81
VIII.—Notes on Fishing in the Sooswa, Arsun, and Giri, by Sur- geon-Major Maclaren, M. D. ...	82
IX.—Notes on Fishing in Assam, by F. Peacock, Esq. ...	82
X.—Notes on Fishing near Jhansi and Gwalior, Central India, by G. H. Lacy, Esq., Bengal Staff Corps ...	83
XI.—Notes on Fishing at Narora, Lower Ganges Canal, by Captaia Maycock, Army Pay Department ...	84
XII.—Fishing at Raiwala, near Saharunpur and Hurdwar, by Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Prendergast, Deputy Judge Advocate ...	87
XIII.—Fishing in the Rivers Leh, Sohan, Korung and Chiblat, near Rawalpindi, by G. H. Lacy, Esq., Bengal Staff Corps... ..	88
XIV.—Fishing near Jubbulpore, Central Provinces, in the Nerbudda River, by G. H. Lacy, Esq., Bengal Staff Corps ...	92
XV.—Notes on Fishing in the Jumna, Arsun and Giri Rivers, by T. P. Luscombe, Esq. ...	94
XVI.—Sport in the Poonch, by Captain J. G. Allan ...	96
XVII.—Fishing in the Surjoo, near Bagesur, Kumaon, by Captain W. T. Fairbrother, 13th Bengal Infantry ...	97
XVIII.—Fishing in the Kosi River, Kumaon, by Captain. W. T. Fairbrother, 13th Bengal Infantry ...	98
XIX.—Fishing at Malwa Tal, near Naini Tal, by G. Massy, Esq., The Norfolk Regiment ...	100
XX.—Notes on stocking Tanks, by H. S. Thomas, Esq., Madras Civil Service ...	102
XXI.—Notes on Fishing in Kashmir, in River Pohra, by Major R. J. Pike, Suffolk Regiment ...	103
XXII.—Notes on Fishing at Domel, Kashmir, by Walter Denny, Esq. ... ..	105
XXIII.—Notes on Fishing in Kashmir, in River Jhelum near Sopor, by Major R. J. Pike, Suffolk Regiment ...	106
XXIV.—Notes on Fishing at Abazai, in Swat River, by F. J. H. Bar- ton, Esq., The Queen's Own Corps of Guides ...	111
XXV.—Notes on the Sirun River, Hazara, by Lieutenant-Colonel G. Jackson, 5th Bengal Cavalry ...	112
XXVI.—Fishing Diary and Notes on the Poonch, by Captain Lums- den, Bengal Staff Corps ...	113

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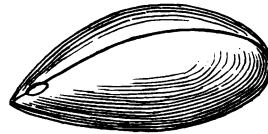
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FIG- 1.



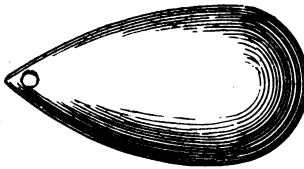
Scott's No. 2 Spoon.

FIG- 2-



Hogbacked or Hogged Spoon.

FIG- 3-



Shape and size of Spoon recommended for the Poonch.

FIG- 4-



Exact shape and size of Spoon recommended for large Mahseer at Tangrot.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

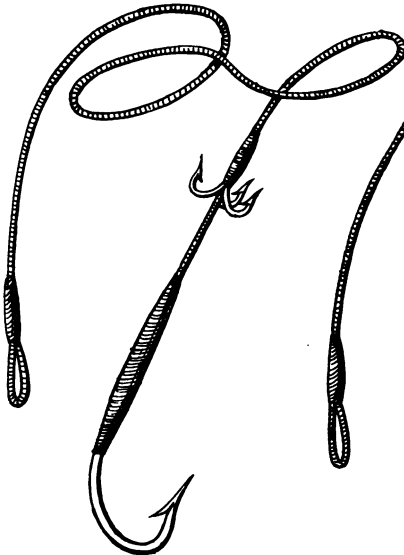
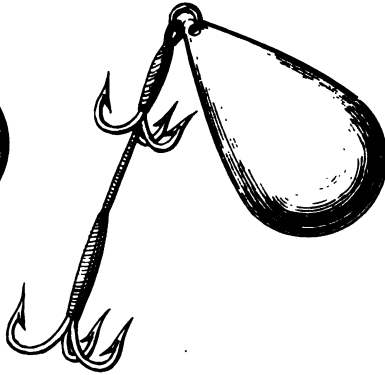
**FIG. 1.**

**Small Spoon with flying mount  
of Single Hooks.**



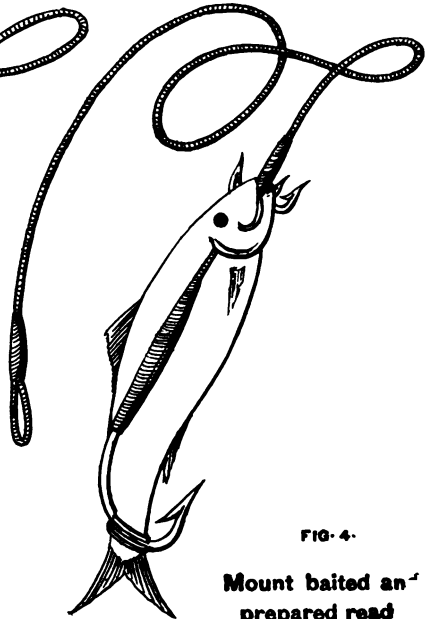
**FIG. 2.**

**Small Spoon with flying mount  
of Treble Hooks.**



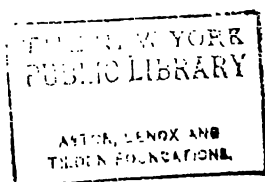
**FIG. 3.**

**Mount for Chilwa or other  
small fish.**



**FIG. 4.**

**Mount baited and  
prepared ready  
for spinnin'**



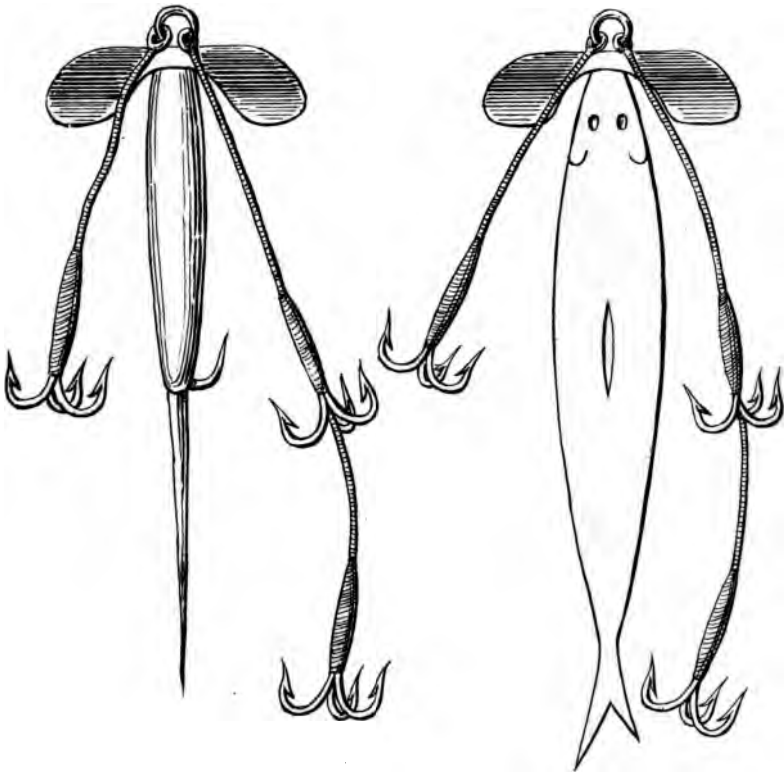


FIG. 1.

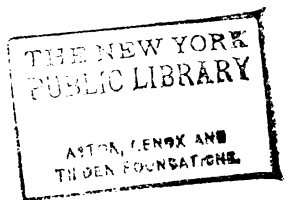
Diagrams of Spinner described in Chapter I, called the "Chapman's" Spinner, showing the same baited and unbaited.



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Diagram shewing spoon  
with triangles mounted with  
wire, instead of split rings  
for heavy fishing.



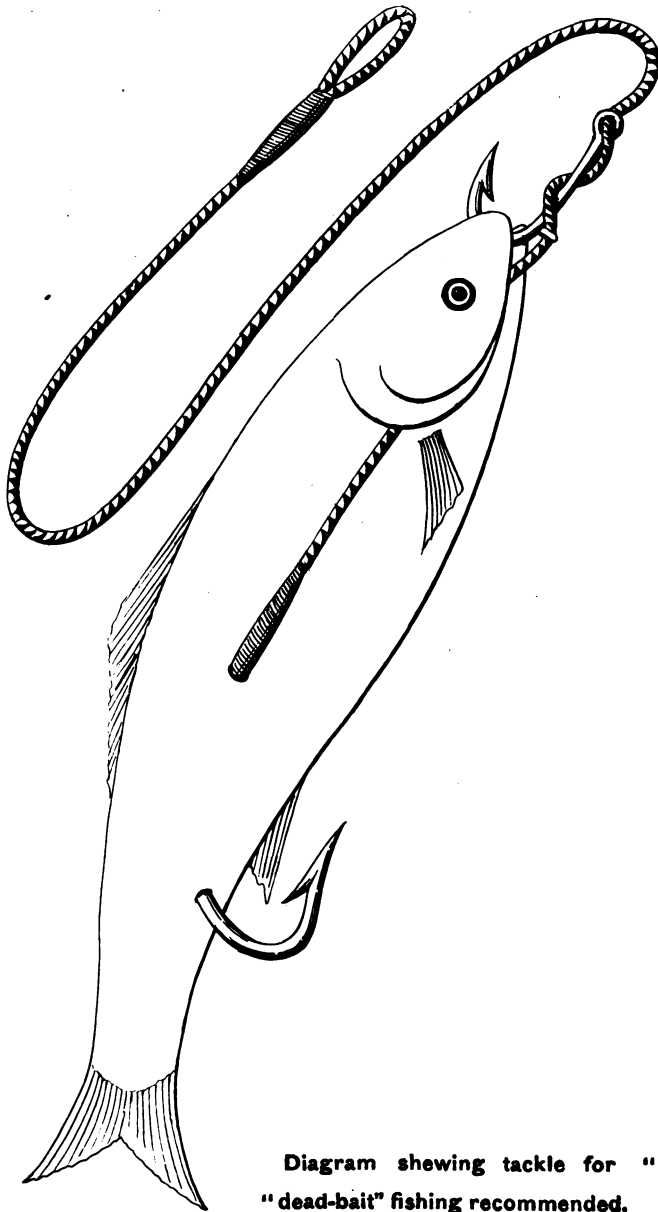
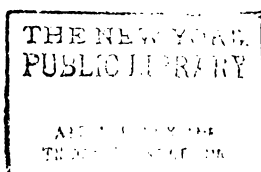
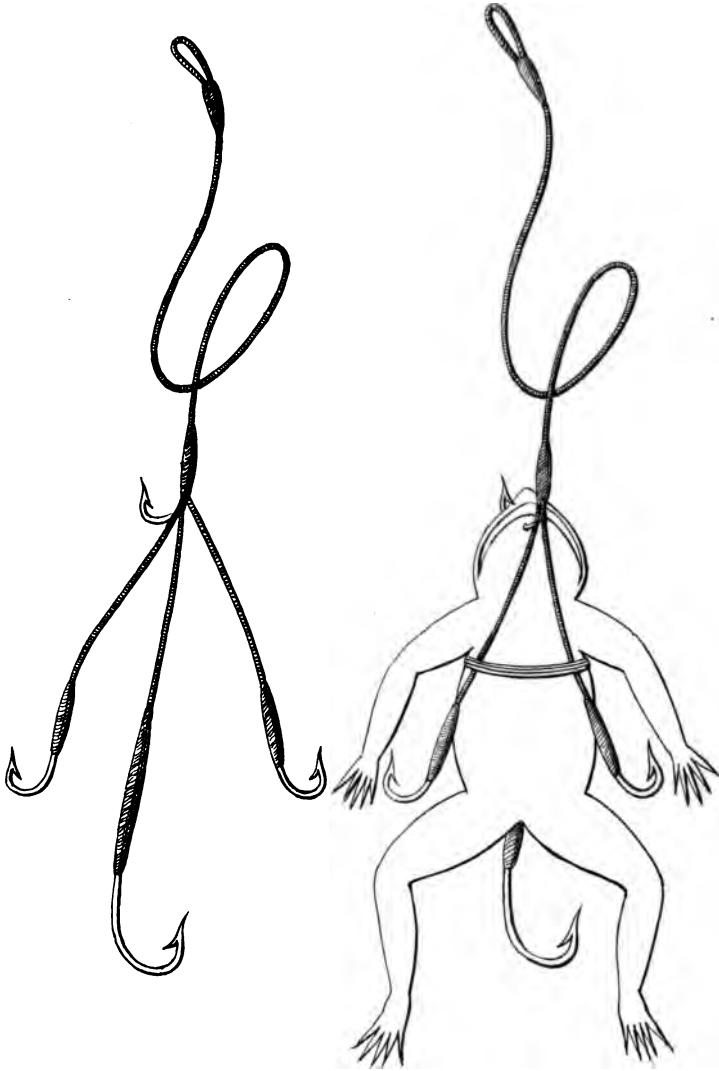


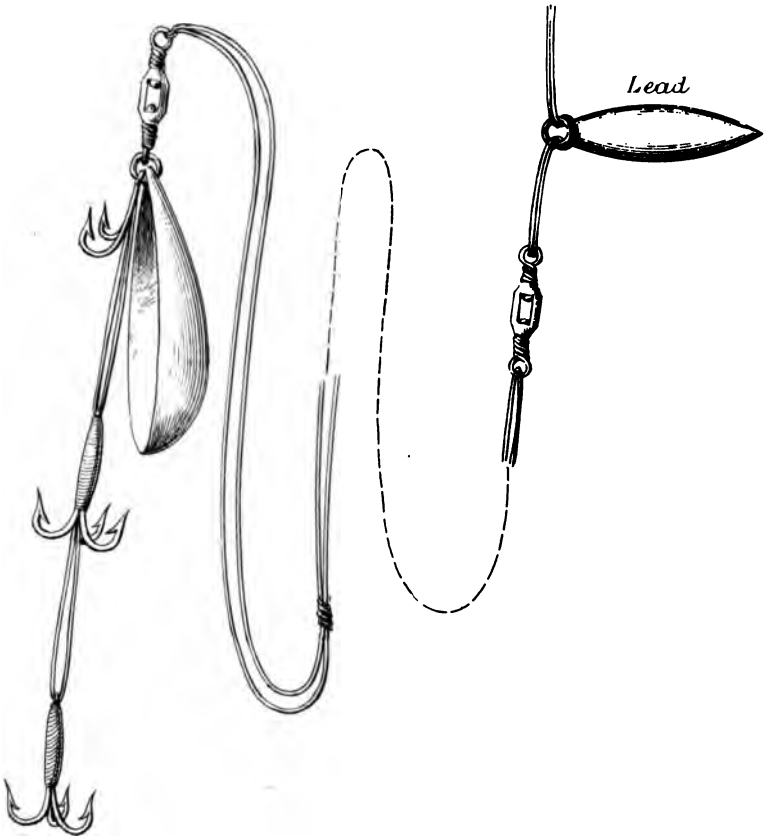
Diagram shewing tackle for "heavy  
"dead-bait" fishing recommended.





Diagrams shewing a kind of frog tackle recommended, both baited and unbaited.





Captain Maycock's method of mounting spoons.

Spinning trace, 2 strands of Salmon gut side by side—Total length 3 feet.

Distance from end of spoon to end triangle  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches Lead  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.



